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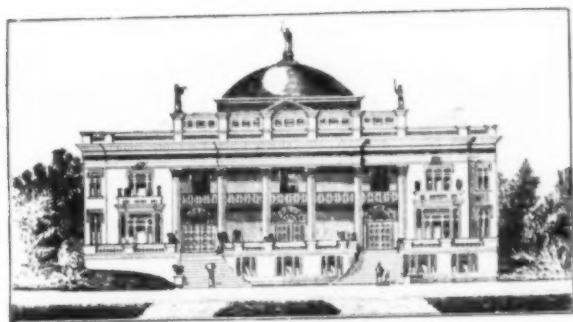
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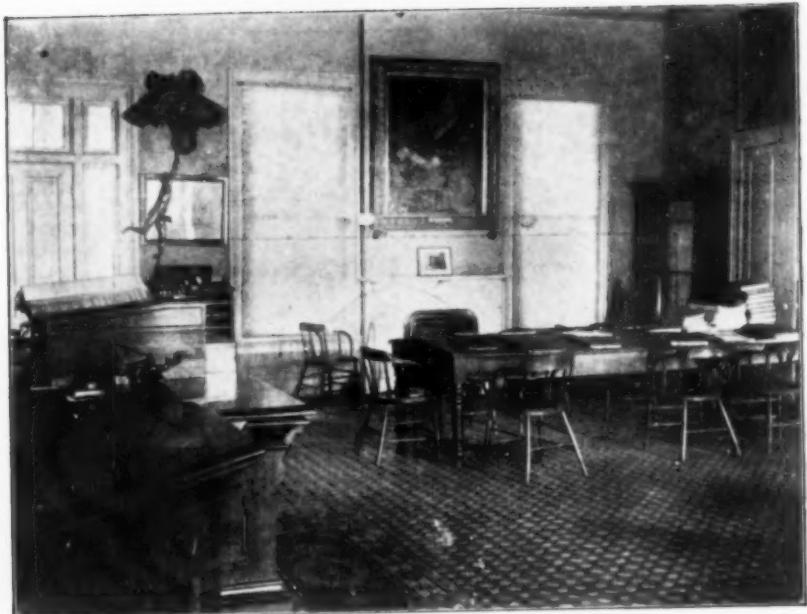
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THE year 1895 has been one of good result in library progress. The event of the year has been the provision for a great public library in the metropolis by the consolidation of the Tilden Fund with the Astor and Lenox libraries, and the appointment of John S. Billings to the post of librarian has made sure that the library will be adequately and broadly administered. The Boston Public Library has been "at home" for some months in its new building, the finest house for books in this country, if not in the world. The new Carnegie library at Pittsburg, opened in November last, marks the largest gift for library purposes during the year. The organization of a new bureau at Washington for the handling of public documents, by Superintendent Crandall, appointed under the new law, marks a step forward in that work. The only unpleasant features of the year have been the investigation into the financial affairs of the Library of Congress, and the continuing tendency at Washington and at some state capitals to mix politics with library positions, a tendency against which the library associations are now doing good service. Library commissions have been organized in Vermont and Wisconsin, and the Massachusetts commission has nearly "rounded up" the first part of its work, since it can now report that out of the 352 towns in Massachusetts, but 25 are without free libraries. Library associations have been organized this year in Vermont, Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska, and Central California, so that there is now an unbroken chain of state library associations from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains. In addition to the successful A. L. A. conference at Denver, the women's meeting at Atlanta, and the L. A. U. K. conference at Cardiff, there has been an international bibliographical conference at Brussels to promote uniformity in classification and methods, in which a number of continental librarians participated. Bibliographically, the year has been very fruitful, covering the completion of the great medical bibliography of the Surgeon-General's Library, by Dr. Billings, the issue of a first part of the "American Catalogue," 1890-95, and an unusual amount of good work from the Publishing Section of the A. L. A., especially

the extremely useful "evaluation" work of Mr. Iles, whose full scope is hidden by the too limited title of "Books for girls and women," and the helpful "List of subject-headings" edited by Mr. Gardner M. Jones. Truly the year 1895 has been one of goodly harvesting.

THE Denver Conference, whose proceedings constituted the December issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, was a thorough success, and has had pleasant after-results in the eastern journey of the new officers of the A. L. A., Mr. Dana, Miss West, and Mr. Elmendorf, a happy thought which has had very stimulating effects. The most novel and interesting conference of the year was that at Atlanta, of which a report is given in this number, in connection with the several congresses at the Cotton States Exposition. This, though scarcely a success in numbers, promises to be most valuable in its results for the future. The program was admirably planned by Miss Wallace, who has shown herself a pioneer in the South of the best library spirit, and the several papers constituted so thorough and excellent a guide for librarians in the South, that at the suggestion of some of the library representatives at the conference, Commissioner Harris has wisely decided to issue them as a pamphlet of the Bureau of Education. The South is to be especially congratulated in having so representative a library as the Young Men's Library of Atlanta at the front in library progress. The suggestion has been made that the A. L. A. Conference of 1896 be held at Atlanta, and this proposition will come before the Cleveland Conference with the hearty support of those librarians who visited Atlanta.

MEANTIME preparations for the Cleveland Conference of 1896 are being arranged with unusual promptness, and everything points to one of the largest and most representative conferences at this convenient center which the A. L. A. has ever held. That conference will be the more interesting if 1897 is to be given over to the European trip, as the report elsewhere indicates. Nothing could better broaden the view of American librarians, nothing be of more pleasant in-

fluence on the English association, than such a trip. A score of representative American librarians made a trip to Europe in 1877 as representatives of the newly formed American Library Association, to attend the first London Conference, and the L. A. U. K., which is in this sense a child of the A. L. A., has for years desired to welcome its parent on English soil. It is peculiarly fitting that the second visit should be made 20 years after, as the child comes of age. There is a great deal to learn from English libraries, aside from the delight of visiting the venerable edifices, such as the Bodleian Library, in which books have been housed for centuries, and the historical collections which the centuries have accumulated there, and we trust that nothing may intervene to prevent the journey to visit our kin across sea.

AND this is a good place to say that in such a misunderstanding as has recently arisen between the mother-country and our own, librarians should be apostles of peace, and should not hesitate to use their influence for peace and goodwill among the nations. The two countries are in no respect knit together more strongly than in their relations as co-heirs of one literature and users of one mother-tongue. It seems to be true that the rising generation has been led to thoughts of war by the very warlike juvenile literature which authors on both sides the water have been writing for some years, so that possibly librarians have unwittingly some sins to answer for which may now have atonement. The international visits of Americans and Englishmen have done much to cause a better understanding between the two peoples, and the visit of the American Library Association to England — to be reciprocated, we hope, in due time — would certainly do much toward the strengthening of this happy relation.

THE appointment of Dr. John S. Billings as the head of the New York Free Public Library which is to be, is an excellent example of the best kind of good sense. The appointment is an ideal one. Dr. Billings will be accepted everywhere, the world over, as the right man in the right place. He is not so much a technical librarian as a general executive, as is shown both by his masterly handling of the great catalog of the Surgeon-General's Library, which he has edited, by his planning and editorial oversight of the *Index Medicus*, and by the wonderful scope and the effectiveness of his

general work, all of which prove him to be an administrator and executive of the first rank. His varied work has caused his name to be known in almost all civilized countries, and he has always been a welcome, prominent, and effective member of the many international conferences which he has attended. The library profession may expect the best results from Dr. Billings, now that he is given, after his years of experience, an opportunity to show himself at his best, with resources at his command such as few library executives have had; and the reading public of New York, the library profession, and the trustees of the Tilden, Astor, and Lenox foundations are equally to be congratulated.

One of the most interesting documents of the past year is the special report presented by Mr. Spofford last month as to the reorganization of the Congressional Library in its new home. Mr. Spofford makes this interesting document incidentally the defence of his record in the library. He is quite right in pointing out that few librarians, if any, have had such a complication of work put upon their shoulders with such inadequate force and resources. But unfortunately in this defence he makes in his mixing up of cause and effect, full confession of what is the real fault. Mr. Spofford, as every one knows who has visited Washington, or has had relations with the Copyright office or the Congressional Library, has undertaken to do personally what it would require half a dozen men to do, instead of recognizing that his position was that of an executive, who should do as little as possible himself. His schedule of what he has tried to do is the most serious confession of incapacity as an executive which we have seen. As a result of all this, he has failed to get or to keep as assistants able men, who are capable lieutenants and have the power of handling subordinate staffs. The lack of this executive faculty has done much to embarrass Mr. Spofford throughout his career. It is understood that he will be relieved in the future by the appointment of a separate copyright officer, as he himself recommends, and it would probably be desirable also that he should be relieved in great part of the difficult and herculean task of removing the books to the new building and rearranging them under proper classification. It might be desirable, in fact, to divide the work of the Library of Congress between a librarian and a superintendent, as is done in some other libraries.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATION: A TWENTY YEARS' RETROSPECT.

BY R. R. BOWKER.

THE history of modern library organization begins with the first issue of the AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL and the first meeting of the American Library Association, and the publication also of the Government report on public libraries, all in 1876. Now that this association has become in this country a national institution, ramifying by state associations and local clubs into states and cities throughout the Union, and has led to the development of library organizations and periodicals in other countries, it is worth while, perhaps, at the close of twenty years and at the opening of the twenty-first volume of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, to trace briefly the history and development of the several elements which have co-operated toward the results of to-day. It should be said in the beginning that the LIBRARY JOURNAL led to the organization of the American Library Association, and not the contrary, as is usually stated.

The idea of the LIBRARY JOURNAL had started and taken root in two places simultaneously. Mr. Frederick Leyboldt had been much interested in library development, and during my association with him in the early days of the *Publishers' weekly*, we had talked over some adequate representation in periodical literature of the library interest. Meanwhile, Mr. Melvil Dewey, then in Boston, who while a student at Amherst College and a post-graduate assistant in its library, had worked out the remarkable system of decimal classification—all the more remarkable as coming from a college student—which is so associated with his name, had conceived a similar idea of starting a library periodical.

The first germ of the idea had already taken shape in the department of "Library notes" in the *Publishers' weekly*, which resulted in a conference in May, 1876, between Mr. Leyboldt, Mr. Dewey, and myself at the editorial rooms of the *Publishers' weekly*, then in the old Potter building, at 37 Park Row, New York, afterward destroyed by fire. During the conversation about the starting of the LIBRARY JOURNAL a suggestion was made that it would be well to make its first work the promotion of a library

association of some kind. I recall writing at that office a circular letter to leading librarians asking their co-operation for that purpose, and telegraphing to Dr. Poole and other distant librarians, inviting their help.

The idea of an organization came partly from the library conference held in New York by leading American librarians in 1853, and partly from the success of the recently formed American Book Trade Association, which had been organized in 1875 at Niagara, and was to hold its second conference at Philadelphia in 1876. Both these organizations lacked the energy and enthusiasm of a Melvil Dewey to carry them through to permanent success, and so came to naught.

The suggestion for a conference of librarians met in general with cordial response, though Dr. Poole, in Chicago, having an alert suspicion of any one connected with the book trade, as Mr. Leyboldt and I were incidentally, and knowing at that time nothing of Mr. Dewey, was rather shy of being trapped into a movement which he did not quite understand, and wrote first to some Eastern librarians to know what manner of people these were. The Commissioner of Education, John Eaton, showed hearty sympathy; a committee to arrange for the conference was organized by Mr. Dewey, as secretary, consisting of Justin Winsor, W. F. Poole, and Lloyd P. Smith, names which at once commanded library respect; and the conference met at Philadelphia, during the Centennial Exposition, Wednesday morning, October 4, 1876.

Meanwhile the first number of the AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL had been in preparation, and Volume 1, Number 1, under the date of September 30, 1876, was ready just in time to have its first copies distributed at the conference. The contents of that first number were curiously prophetic of the work in which it was afterward to co-operate. Justin Winsor, the first president of the American Library Association, held the place of honor with "A Word to Starters of Libraries." Mr. Cutter suggested the universal character of the work by an article on "The Franklin Society of Paris,"

and Mr. Dewey—always with two words to every one else's one—had two articles, one on "The Profession" and one on "Public Documents." "The Government Library Report" was reviewed and summarized from advance sheets by L. E. Jones. The editorial department, to which, if I remember rightly, Mr. Dewey and myself were the contributors, outlined the plan of the LIBRARY JOURNAL; made announcement of the Conference; summarized the Government report; advocated a museum of comparative bibliography; suggested a plan for the Co-operative Index to Periodicals, which first took shape as a supplement to the JOURNAL and afterward became an annual publication; and advocated uniform title slips from publishers. The original editors—though one says it who should not—may fairly claim credit for covering the world and the future with their initial products. For the first volume Mr. Dewey was managing editor, Mr. Cutter and Mr. Whitney had charge respectively of the departments of Bibliography and of Pseudonyms and Anonyms, and I was general editor, though it had not been the intention at the start that I should take a responsibility additional to that connected with the *Publishers' weekly* and with other journalistic and literary obligations, and my name did not appear until the volume title-page was printed. I believe Mr. Dewey and I never settled which was the superior editorship. The list of associate editors printed on the title-page throughout the first volume, comprised twenty-one of the foremost representatives of the library interest, from Boston to San Francisco, but most of them took no part whatever in the actual work of the JOURNAL and only a few were practically available as contributors. Of the twenty-one only eight are now known to be actually engaged in library work, and the presence and help of Abbot, Brevoort, Guild, Homes, Noyes, Poole, Lloyd P. Smith, and Vinton are no longer with us. At the start everybody queried how enough matter could be found on library subjects to fill a periodical from month to month; although the editors have once or twice in the lapse of years been somewhat put to it to fill the month's number, it has nevertheless proved that librarians had sufficient to say to fill 400 to 500 pages a year now for these twenty years.

At the close of the first volume (August, 1877), the JOURNAL having really become international in its scope, the limiting word AMER-

ICAN was dropped, and the title-page of V. 1, and of the succeeding monthly issues, bore the name LIBRARY JOURNAL only, as the "Official organ of the Library Associations of America and of the United Kingdom." Mr. E. B. Nicholson, then of the London Institution, afterward Bodleian Librarian at Oxford, was the English corresponding editor. V. 2, September, 1877, to February, 1878, was given up chiefly to the report of the New York Conference (S. no.), a college number (O. no.), and the reports of the London Conference in two double numbers (N.-D., '77, Ja.-F. '78), and on the November title-page, several leading London librarians appeared among the associate editors. V. 3 covered March to December, 1877. With V. 4, 1878, the volumes were made to correspond with the calendar year, and on the July number and the yearly title-page appeared the name of Mr. H. R. Tedder, Librarian of the Athenaeum Club, London, as general European editor.

The first Conference of the American Library Association at Philadelphia (1876) was followed by others in New York (1877), in which year was also the London International Conference; Boston (1879); Washington and Baltimore (1881)—1880 being omitted; Cincinnati (1882); Buffalo (1883); Lake George (1885)—1884 being omitted; Milwaukee (1886); Thousand Islands (1887); Catskills (1888); St. Louis (1889)—with post-conference trip to New Orleans and the South; White Mountains (1890); San Francisco (1891); Lakewood, with Baltimore and Washington (1892); Chicago—the World's Congress of Librarians (1893); Adirondacks (1894); and Denver (1895). It is unnecessary to do more than remind the profession of the great wealth of information and experience in the papers and proceedings of these conferences, and the fund of recreation which they have afforded.

But a great part of the influence of the A. L. A. has shown itself in the organization of local associations or clubs, meeting more frequently. The New York Library Club, the pioneer local organization, was started in 1885, since when several local clubs have also been organized, as in Chicago (1892) and Washington (1894), and no less than 17 states have now state organizations: Massachusetts (organized in 1891), in which is practically included Rhode Island; New Hampshire (1890); Vermont (1895); Connecticut (1891); New York (1890); New Jersey (1891); Pennsylvania (1892); Ohio (1895); Indiana (1895); Illinois (1890); Michigan (1891); Wisconsin (1890); Iowa (1891); Minnesota (1891); Colorado

(1893); Nebraska (1895); and California, which has two associations, one for Southern California (1891) and one for Central California (1895).

The modern library spirit has also had remarkable development in the work of the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts, the result of which is that but 25 out of the 352 towns of that state are now without free libraries, and in the like commissions in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wisconsin. The library work, even more extensive, of the Board of Regents of the State of New York, under Mr. Dewey as secretary, including its feature of travelling libraries, has likewise borne fruit in other states.

Our English brethren were not slow to take a hint from the American Conference, and Mr. E. B. Nicholson, librarian of the London Institution, sent out in July, 1877, a circular letter inviting English librarians to meet at a conference in London. A party of American librarians, including Mr. Winsor, Mr. Cutter, Dr. Poole, Mr. Guild, Mr. Dewey, Miss Godfrey (afterward Mrs. Dewey), and others, 22 in all, made a missionary visit to London in response to an invitation to the A. L. A. to be represented at the conference, and were most hospitably received, being included among the officers of the conference, and otherwise treated most pleasantly. The conference of 1877 was in fact known as the International Library Conference, and was opened Oct. 5, 1877, just a year and a day after the American Conference, at the London Institution, under the presidency of Mr. J. Winter Jones, principal librarian of the British Museum, and thus head of the English library profession. The "Library Association of the United Kingdom," then organized, has been a thorough success. It has since held conferences at Oxford (1878); Manchester (1879); Edinburgh (1880); London (1881); Cambridge (1882); Liverpool (1883); Dublin (1884); Plymouth (1885); London (1886); Birmingham (1887); Glasgow (1888); London (1889); Reading (1890); Nottingham (1891); Paris (1892); Aberdeen (1893); Belfast (1894); and Cardiff (1895).

The association issued in 1893, and again in 1895, a Library Association Year-book, edited by Mr. J. Y. X. MacAlister, its honorary secretary, containing its constitution, a list of members, a syllabus of examinations for library assistants (held half-yearly in June and December); the schedule for the Summer School for students of librarianship; recent Acts of Parliament affect-

ing public libraries; a bibliography of the papers presented at conferences and other meetings; a list of the principal libraries of the United Kingdom and other valuable features.

From January, 1880, to December, 1883, it issued the four volumes of its modest *Monthly Notes*, which was succeeded, 1884-88, by the five volumes of *The Library Chronicle*, rather intermittently issued by Mr. E. C. Thomas, then one of its secretaries. Since 1889, its successor, *The Library*, has been edited by Mr. MacAlister, and is still happily continued. The Transactions were separately published, 1887 to 1889, and the Proceedings for 1885, and 1892 to 1894, those for the other years being given in the periodicals above named. It has also issued a Public Library Manual and a Library Association Series of six useful library handbooks on special subjects.

One of the best acts of the 1876 Conference was the appointment of a Co-operation Committee, consisting of Mr. Cutter, Mr. F. B. Perkins, and Mr. F. Jackson, which in the JOURNAL for April, May, June, and July, 1877, made four extremely valuable reports on uniform methods. Mr. Dewey, under the auspices of this committee, began in 1877 to provide for the furnishing of library supplies, as announced in the advertising pages of the JOURNAL of May, 1877. With 1878 this enterprise took the name of the Supply Department for the American Library Association, and afterwards that of the Readers' and Writers' Economy Co. This was the origin of the Library Bureau, which with the benefit of Mr. Dewey's fertile ingenuity and keen appreciation of library needs, became at once a most important factor in library progress. The enterprise had business difficulties in 1888, but a compromise and reorganization put it on its feet again, and it has since, as is well known, developed into an important commercial enterprise, under the business administration developed under charge of Mr. H. E. Davidson and his associate, Mr. W. E. Parker. It is an interesting fact that the library business of the Bureau is now less than one-fourth of his total business, since insurance companies, savings banks, etc., have largely availed themselves of library methods, and the Bureau has now branch offices in New York, Chicago, and London, in addition to its headquarters in Boston.

Among the other enterprises originating in the centennial year was the American Catalogue of books in print and for sale in 1876,

which was Frederick Leypoldt's most important enterprise, and which remains his most enduring monument. Working with insufficient capital, and with the training of a bibliographer rather than of a business executive, Mr. Leypoldt was considerably embarrassed by the accruing expense of this enterprise, which involved an expenditure of \$27,600, made more serious by delays in the publication, against which he found it impossible to safeguard himself. Accordingly with 1879 the present writer made an arrangement with Mr. Leypoldt, for taking over the *Publishers' weekly* at a purchase price which should give him needed capital for what had come to be his heart's enterprise, under an arrangement which freed him almost entirely for that work and contemplated repurchase by him on its completion. In 1880 the present writer had occasion to take up his abode in London, as the representative of Harper & Bros. and with the especial purpose of starting there the English edition of *Harper's Magazine*, a residence which continued from July, 1880, to September, 1882. The LIBRARY JOURNAL was still so much of a burden, and made so serious an inroad upon the resources of the office—none too large at best—that Mr. Leypoldt was advised to discontinue the enterprise, and an announcement to that effect was made in its columns, under proper arrangements for making good to its subscribers the balance of their subscriptions.

The LIBRARY JOURNAL had unfortunately been handicapped in its early volumes by an arrangement as to which a frank word may be said. It was expected by Mr. Leypoldt and myself, and intended by Mr. Dewey, that the latter should take the burden of promoting the enterprise, and an arrangement was made by which he was to have as compensation one-fifth of the gross returns. The rooseate hopes for the pecuniary success of the JOURNAL did not materialize. The gross returns were considerably less than the gross expenses, and the double tithe which was payable to Mr. Dewey resulted in a loss shown on the books the first year of over \$2000. A good deal more business responsibility fell on Mr. Leypoldt's shoulders and a good deal more editorial work on my own than any of us had expected—without compensation to either of us—the difficulty then as thereafter being particularly in getting the material on time. This unfortunate pecuniary complication was modified later by an arrangement for a kind of rebate by Mr. Dewey, but the final result after three years was an unfortunate misunderstand-

ing which was not altogether straightened out until some time after the lamented and premature death of the man who had carried burdens until his strength was no longer sufficient for the work laid upon him.

Soon after I reached London, the L. A. U. K. held its conference in Edinburgh, and it was a great pleasure to me to be invited to attend the meetings. At the moment when I entered the room in the University of Edinburgh where the conference was in session, I was astonished to hear the secretary reading a post-card from Dr. Poole, making the charge that Mr. Leypoldt and myself had practically betrayed the Library Association, and committed an outrage upon JOURNAL subscribers by discontinuing the publication. I felt obliged to introduce myself immediately by asking opportunity to make a frank and full statement on the subject, which was so well received that I think this unkind and unjustifiable introduction of me to English librarians was more than offset by the very warm and friendly welcome which my explanation obtained for me.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Leypoldt's heart was so much with all his bibliographical children that, after announcing the discontinuance of the JOURNAL, he decided, against his financial interest, to continue the publication, although it was years afterward before the JOURNAL earned a position in which both ends met. He also undertook the burden of my own editorial relations in the JOURNAL, and with 1881, Mr. Cutter succeeded Mr. Dewey as the other general editor. Mr. Dewey, in 1886, started his *Library Notes*, at first as a monthly, afterward making it a desultory publication of specialized issues, now in its fifth volume.

It should be stated here that the JOURNAL never received any financial help from the Association beyond the few pages of advertising from the Co-operation Committee, before the Library Bureau became a special enterprise, and in later years the loan of the type set for the Conference proceedings for the issue of a regular number of the JOURNAL containing the Proceedings.

When I returned from Europe in 1882 it was not my intention to resume active relations with the office, but the sudden death of Mr. Leypoldt, in March, 1884, almost the direct result of his self-sacrifice in his bibliographical undertakings, necessitated a change of plan. Since that date the JOURNAL has been under my own editorial supervision, at the New York office,

though my name has appeared only in 1887-89. Mr. Cutter carried his bibliographical editorship almost without gap till his own absence in Europe, that is, till 1893; and from 1890 to 1893 inclusive, Mr. Paul Leicester Ford was associated with him as an editor. Difficulties in having part of the editorial relations away from New York, requiring much of the editing to be done by the office force, finally led to the concentration of the work within the office, and I take this occasion to express thanks and appreciation for the valuable work done in the past few years by Miss Helen E. Haines, as chief editorial assistant on the JOURNAL, after training herself in the office routine without the advantage of direct library equipment.

Quite apart from the LIBRARY JOURNAL, a most valuable feature of library publication has been the work of the Publishing Section of the A. L. A. The continuing of "Poole's Index," though prompted by the A. L. A., was started in advance of the organization of the Publishing Section, which began in 1886. Its most important work is "The A. L. A. Index to General Literature," or essay-Index, edited by W. I. Fletcher, its first chairman. This was followed by the valuable catalog of "Reading for the Young," and, in the year past, which has been notable for bibliographies, by the "List of Books for Girls and Women and their Clubs," in separate parts as well as in one large volume, and the "List of Subject-headings for use in a dictionary catalogue."

A review of library development would not be complete without reference to the library schools and classes. When Mr. Dewey, in 1883, came to Columbia College he outlined, with the co-operation of President Barnard, as a part of the university work of that institution, the Library School, which, started with 1887, later went with Mr. Dewey to become part of the State Library system. This example has been followed by the organization of the library schools of the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, of the Los Angeles Public Library, of the Drexel Institute, Phila., of the Armour Institute, Chicago, and of the Denver Public Library; and by the Summer School of Library Economy, conducted at Amherst by Mr. Fletcher, and other classes or lectures started elsewhere in the country. The remarkable success of these schools is shown by the fact that their graduates are seldom without positions.

The example set in America and followed in England has borne good fruit also in Continental countries. France, aside from the Société Franklin, for the propagation of popular libraries, organized in the middle of the century and bearing the name of our American philosopher, has no distinctive library organization, nor has it any library periodical proper, unless the *Bulletin des librairies et des archives* issued by the Ministry of the Interior and that of the Bibliothèque national are so considered. Germany is yet without a national library association, although there has been agitation of the subject, especially since our World's Congress at Chicago, but a *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* has been issued since 1881, by Harrasowitz, Leipzig, under the editorship of Dr. O. Hartwig, and is understood to have some support from a governmental subsidy. Italy has had at Milan a library training class, and has its *Rivista della biblioteche*, published monthly at Turin under the direction of Dr. G. Biagi. Thus has the modest acorn grown into the international oak.

The LIBRARY JOURNAL, it may be said in conclusion, is part of the bibliographical system centred in the office of the *Publishers' weekly*. The LIBRARY JOURNAL was first supplemented by the quarterly Index to periodicals, which afterwards became the "Annual Index to periodicals," now merged in the "Annual literary index," which besides its continuation of "Poole's index" includes other bibliographical features. The foundation of American bibliography is the weekly record in the *Publishers' weekly*, with its full title entries according to the rules of the A. L. A., with descriptive annotations, and the monthly and yearly dictionary list of all books recorded. This dictionary catalogue also makes up the index to the "Annual American Catalogue." Each five years this is again organized into the "American Catalogue," now in three successive volumes, supplementing the great work of Mr. F. Leyboldt, the "American Catalogue" of 1876. These, with other issues, make up a general scheme of bibliography which is perhaps not altogether paralleled by the current bibliography of any other nation. This entire system had its origin in the pioneer work of Frederick Leyboldt a quarter of a century ago. It is interesting in making this retrospect to note how much has been accomplished, in the short period of library co-operation, within the memory of men of middle age.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION OF MASSACHUSETTS.*

BY HENRY S. NOURSE, *South Lancaster.*

THE Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts has recently completed the fifth year of actual work. When the law of 1890 creating the commission was enacted, it was judged by many to be a dubious experiment. Some even stigmatized it as a step in the wrong direction—another move toward socialistic paternalism. But the opponents of the law have had to confess that whatever of grandmotherliness there may have been in it is not of a gross type, since the bounty of one hundred dollars' worth of books promised by the state to any town for the first time establishing a free library is entirely contingent upon initiative action by the town—an appropriation and promise of perpetual support made by a regular town meeting. Now the New England town meeting is a very conservative body when dollars and cents are concerned, and especially when a majority of the voters is of the old colonial stock, as is always the case in the country outside of the manufacturing villages. Moreover, the opponents of the measure could not blame the mechanism of persuasion as expensive, for the five commissioners serve without compensation or possible perquisite. The board does not even employ a clerk, although authorized to do so.

When we first met for consultation about our duties as a commission our faces wore an air of becoming humility, for although hopeful of serving some useful end we could not but recognize the fact that, theoretically, we were merely an inexpensive and almost powerless committee of solicitation. Not that we desired it should be otherwise. The simplicity of the law pleased us, and we believed it well suited to the independent spirit of New England life. We think so now. We have never sought to have a single clause of the law excised or amended, nor asked that a syllable should be added to it. We believed thoroughly in the paramount value of a free initiative, and every year's experience has confirmed and strengthened that belief. The town, like the individual, prizes most, and derives most benefit, from that which it has bought and paid for, labored and fought for,

and which it manages wholly as its own. This is just as true of the public library as it is of any other human property, or of liberty itself.

After organization we entered upon a thorough investigation of library conditions throughout the commonwealth. This difficult work was facilitated by the statistics collected by the State Board of Education. We then put ourselves in communication with the municipalities by means of a two-page circular, which included a copy of the new law, announced our legal birth as a commission, set forth the reasons for and purposes of our creation as such, gave some rose-colored but truthful views of the advantages to the town of a free library, and stated our individual and collective anxiety to be useful and especially benevolent at the expense of the state treasury. Thereupon a great surprise awaited us. We at once found ourselves riding upon the topmost wave of a tide of popularity. The free public library movement thus inaugurated by Massachusetts speedily received very flattering commendation from the leading journals and periodicals wherever the American language is spoken, even in conservative and self-satisfied England. Almost before the commission had got into working order, letters came from neighboring states asking how the new law was working. Missives soon came from nearly every state in the Union, from most of the nations of Europe, and from far-away Australia, asking for copies of the law, for reports, for plans and specifications of everything relating to library work. It seemed as though a new microbe had been evolved—a library bacillus generated under the gilded dome of the Massachusetts state-house, whose progeny had been wafted on the wings of the wind to the uttermost parts of the world to ferment and excite among all civilized peoples a craving for library privileges. New Hampshire at once adopted, with slight modifications, the Massachusetts law. New York followed with more complex legislation, presumably adapted to her more complex conditions. Connecticut placed upon her statute-book a comprehensive and somewhat paternal library act. Maine and Vermont enacted new library laws. Wisconsin now proclaims herself the pioneer of the Great West in library legisla-

* Address, January 10, 1896, before the New York Library Association and the New York Library Club.

tion. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Montana are struggling with the new ideas, and it requires no great gift of prophecy to foretell that in the fulness of time state after state will come into line with New York and New England, proclaiming that the free public library must be a co-ordinate of the free public school system throughout the Republic.

By a study of the existing conditions in 1890 the commission found that of 350 municipalities composing the commonwealth less than one-third—or to be exact, 103 towns—were without free public libraries. A free public library by the definition of the commission means one whose volumes are not only accessible to the public, but can be taken home for study or perusal. These 103 towns were not bookless. Far from it. One of them has an incorporated library of 10,000 volumes, and hardly a town but had one or more association libraries well patronized. But the use of their literary treasures was restricted to those paying an annual subscription or a fee for the loan of books; and a fee, though of the smallest, shuts the door of the library as securely as though it were that of a burglar-proof vault against the very class of the community which most needs the civilizing influences of books—that class whose ignorance is an ever-present menace to society. The 103 towns lacking free libraries were for the most part fishing and farming communities with small valuation and a high tax rate; such as each successive census proclaimed decadent in population and prosperity. The total population of these towns was 131,000, being less than six per cent. of the total population of the state. Our statistics proved that Massachusetts even then was far and away ahead of all the states of the world in the generous library privileges open to all her people. Five years have passed and I am proud to be able to boast that there are now but 25 towns within the borders of the old Bay State which do not possess a free public library; and two of the 25 have full legal privilege in the free libraries of adjoining towns—Newbury in that of the city of Newburyport, with which it is closely connected by street railway, and Washington in that of the town of Becket. Another, Nantucket, has an incorporated library of 10,000 volumes, and in the remaining 22 are associated libraries possessing 25,000 volumes used by a large majority of their citizens. The population of these towns is about 41,000, or only one and six-tenths per cent. of the 2,500,000 that call Massachusetts home. Most

of these 25 towns would long ago have accepted the library act but for the jealousies of rival villages, or the selfish conservatism displayed by the proprietors of association libraries.

I have spoken of one surprise; we soon met with a second. We were astonished to find among the very first towns to accept the library act and vote to establish a free library many of the smallest and most tax-burdened in the list. Four or five examples may serve to show the nature of the problems we had to solve, and how some plucky little communities made light of obstacles, which to other richer and more populous, but also more drowsy, neighborhoods seem quite insurmountable: The first application for one hundred dollars' worth of books came from Mashpee. This is a fishing village on the Barnstable coast, with less than 300 inhabitants and a valuation of \$170,000. The brave fishermen of Mashpee, by their high cheek-bones and their complexions of the color of a colonial penny, show that they belong to an Algonquin club much more ancient and perhaps as truly aristocratic as that which has its sumptuous headquarters on Commonwealth avenue in Boston. And the maidens and matrons of Mashpee if they founded a woman's club would appropriately style it the "Society of Aboriginal Dames," for nearly all of the denizens of Mashpee are lineal descendants from the people—so-called savages—who owned all Massachusetts before the Pilgrim and the Puritan came, bringing to them the civilizing influences of the Bible, gunpowder, rum, and the whipping-post. Was it not historically and poetically fitting that the first little library sent out from the state's bounty should go to the only living descendants of the brethren of Massasoit?

Another of the early towns was Peru. On the summit of one of the Berkshire hills there stood in 1891 an old meeting-house, weather-beaten by the storms of a hundred years. This old meeting-house was the centre of gravity of the town of Peru. It was so poised on the crest of the Green Mountain range that the rain-drops which chased each other down the western slope of its roof found their way to the Sound through the Housatonic river; while those which dripped from the eastern eaves sought the sea by the Connecticut valley. The whole aggregation of sheep-pastures, forests, farms, houses, and barns in Peru stood on the assessor's books at a valuation of \$120,000, and the tax-rate was \$22.50 upon \$1000. The inhabitants numbered 305, but there were no mummies among them. They

knew that a new mile-stone had been set up on the march of progress, and they voted to support a free library. When they received the books from the state they placed them in one end of the old meeting-house where, as they would say, the people could examine them "after meeting on the Sabbath" and take home what they wanted. About a year ago the old church building was consumed by fire with all its contents—although some of the books were saved because out in the farmers' families doing missionary work. Friends have helped the Peruvians to rebuild their meeting-house, and the commission hopes to prevail upon the legislature to give them another library as a reward of what we Yankees call "spunk."

Another wide-awake little town was Mount Washington, which forms the southwestern corner of the state. It is a farming town strictly. Its agricultural products are sheep and scenery. The farmers of Mount Washington can boast that they raise more scenery to the acre than any other town in Massachusetts. The farms are all set upon edge, and for many years the farmers' sons and daughters have been sliding off into New York and Connecticut, and wherever their slide ended there you may be sure the general average of humanity was elevated by their hardihood, sturdy common sense, and other mountain-bred characteristics. There are but 150 inhabitants in Mount Washington, and the town-meeting that accepted the library act could not have been a very tumultuous assemblage, for there are only 34 voters all told. Last summer one of the wise men of the East climbed up into Mount Washington to spend his vacation, and one day wanting a book he said to his host, "I suppose in so sparsely settled a region there is no library within many miles?" "Oh, yes there is," was the reply, "we've got a good one, given us by the state. We are very proud of it. I'll take you to it." So they drove among the hills until they came to a farmhouse, where they got a big door-key. Then they went on a mile further, without meeting a soul or seeing a dwelling, and came to the town's only meeting-house, in which they found the library of 250 volumes.

I might tell of many other hard problems solved and unsolved; of the successful persuasion of Hancock, a town 16 miles long and two miles wide, with a single thoroughfare running the whole length, and a population of 500; of Windsor, with 600 inhabitants divided among three villages, which are so placed as to form

a triangle four miles from each other. The Windsor problem was solved by three young men, volunteer librarians, who divided the collection of volumes into three equal parts, one for each village, and propose to exchange with each other at appropriate intervals. Such examples—and they are types of many—indicate what local peculiarities and difficulties were constantly encountered. The little help seasonably given through the commission to those willing and anxious to help themselves has borne excellent fruit. The returns yield no note of dissatisfaction, of discouragement, or of doubt. From every quarter peals a pean of praise. Perhaps we have a right to hope at least that our little libraries have helped to save from a reversion to aboriginal desolation some of our little hill towns and fishing villages—those highest schools of hardihood and patriotism, not one of which can state or republic afford to lose.

With such problems as I have set forth demanding our chief service, it is needless to say that the Massachusetts commission has spent little time in philosophizing about those minor details of library management necessary and suited to large towns and extensive collections of books. That was evidently not its foreordained mission to begin with, whatever it may be later. If, in some country village an enthusiastic woman volunteered to give her services as librarian, and offered the use of her sitting-room as a reception-room for the gift of the state, or if the local store-keeper crowded his calicoes on fewer shelves to make room for the new library, we did not feel called upon to pour cold water upon such altruistic ardor by urging the necessity of a complex system of classification or the printing of an elaborate "catalog." Advice we were always ready to give and have given in great variety—although usually in small packages adapted to a special locality, or suited to the personal equation of the inquirer. But our advice was always in the direction of simplicity and rigid economy; that every available dollar might go to buy new books or to increase their circulation. In the choice of books it has been the custom to assign each town, upon its application for aid, to some member of the board, who at once put himself in touch with the officials and leading minds of the town, ascertained the peculiar needs and tastes of the people, the history and industries of the place, before making his selection of books. Great care has always been taken to have each library pure

and patriotic, thoroughly American, and that it should contain as much of fresh and new literature as could be found available. I believe we have never sent "Dairying for profit" to the fishermen of Cape Cod, but we may have sent "Two years before the mast" or "Tom Cringle's log" to some Berkshire town—for "everybody loves a sailor." But we have had no cut-and-dried lists of volumes "which no library should be without." Suggestions from educated citizens have always been sought for and gladly used, if possible. But the main idea always kept in view has been that every patron of the new library should speedily say, like Oliver Twist, "Please, I want some more." The highest flattery the commission has ever received is the fact that they do clamor for more.

One hundred and twenty years ago the New England town-meeting inaugurated and organ-

ized a revolt against monarchical tyranny, which after a dire contest gave us independence and the free institutions which we enjoy. The New England town-meeting and the New England common school, adopted through all the North, in the march of time inspired and educated a patriotic spirit which, under God, and through the bloody arbitrament of civil war, lifted from us the incubus of slavery and gave to honest labor its proper dignity. And now comes the free public library movement (finding its first home among the congenial hills of New York and New England). It will spread state by state, westward, southward, through all the republic, multiplying, by hundreds, by thousands, its little temples of learning, its store-houses of historic lesson and patriotic memory, every one of which is a pledge to the nation of unity, prosperity, and peace.

LIFE AT THE NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL.*

BY MARY E. ROBBINS, *Class of '92.*

WITH the pleasant memories of two happy, busy years at Albany still fresh in my mind, I was glad when I was asked to present to the Connecticut Library Association a brief sketch of life at the Library School.

Started in 1887 at Columbia College, with a four months' course, under the direction of Melvil Dewey, then chief librarian of the college, it followed him to Albany two years later, when he accepted the care of the State Library in 1887, and is now established in the famous Capitol building, its course being extended to cover two years.

For fear of entrenching upon the space set aside for the public, the number in the school is limited to 30. Candidates for admission must be at least 20 years old, with references as to character and ability. If college graduates, their degree admits them without examinations. Otherwise a high-school course—or its equivalent, with two years more of study of college grade, is required. The entrance examinations consist of one each in general history, general literature, general information, and three years' work in a language. These are regular regents' examinations, which are so carefully conducted

that it is almost impossible for partiality or injustice to be shown. 75 per cent. is required on each paper.

Those who enter the school come from all parts of the country. My own class, '92, hailed from eight states, stretching from Massachusetts to Nebraska. In another year both England and Sweden were represented. Some have already had experience in library work, but to the majority it is entirely new. Among the people thus brought together for two years of work toward the one end, many strong friendships are formed, which prove of great benefit when they again scatter all over the country to try to put in practice some of the ideas gained.

The school year of 10 months begins in October, with eight hours a day, or 40 a week, devoted to class work, from Saturday noon till Monday noon being holiday. The instruction is given chiefly by lectures, followed by practice work. To the regular lectures given by members of the staff of the State Library several are added each year by prominent librarians throughout the country. Many incidental talks are also given by distinguished men of this and other countries who visit Albany, for Mr. Dewey does not hesitate to use all his powers of persuasion for the benefit of the school.

The first term of three months is devoted

* Paper read before the Connecticut Library Association.

to cataloging, incidentally learning the library handwriting, and to giving the bewildered novice some idea of the many-sidedness of a librarian's work.

The course for the remainder of the junior year and for the senior year includes dictionary cataloging, classification, bibliography, shelf department work, accessioning, loan systems, reference work, history of libraries, founding and government of libraries, library architecture, and bookbinding, with a few lessons on language and printing.

The Monday afternoon seminar, in which both classes join, is one of the most interesting of the exercises. Under the direction of Miss Cutler, the vice-director, a reporter previously appointed gives a brief review of the news of the week, to which each one in turn adds an item. The rest of the hour is used in various ways. Sometimes two or three sessions are given to the study of an author and his works, or the latest books are criticised and the best methods of selecting them are considered.

There are also opportunities outside the State Library for an insight into the practical workings of a library, since the Y. W. C. A. library and the Diocesan library of All Saints Cathedral are under the charge of the students, and occasional help is given to the Y. M. C. A. librarian.

From Christmas vacation to the end of the year each member of the junior class gives one hour a day of work to the State Library. This is increased to two hours during senior year. By this means the time given to the school by the library staff is made up, and it is possible to keep the tuition at the low amount of \$30 a year for those from New York state, and \$50 for those from outside.

Regents' examinations on the work of the junior year must be passed before entering the senior class. At the end of the course examinations on senior work with a thesis and original bibliography are required for graduation. To those having two years or more of college work, with a standing of 90 per cent. throughout their library course, the degree of Bachelor of Library Science is given. A standing of 90 per cent. without the college preparation graduates with honor but gives no degree.

Every year the Easter vacation is given to a 10 days' visit to New York or Boston, alternately. The libraries and large publishing houses are inspected, and places of interest about the city visited. Friends of the Library

School have shown it great kindness on these occasions. Each one who has accompanied such a party can tell of rare pictures and books freely shown, and of delightful receptions, lunches, and dinners enjoyed. On returning to Albany careful reports are made by different students appointed for the several departments of library work.

From its situation in the Capitol building the school gains many advantages—not the least being the power of concentrating the mind upon the work in hand, regardless of the continual tramp of an endless procession of brides and grooms, and the curious glances and comments of sightseers in general, while object lessons in the practical workings of modern politics may be had by crossing the corridor to the Assembly room and Senate chamber of the New York state legislature.

But it is not all work at the Library School. The instructors understand the need of physical exercise and recreation. Tramping and bicycle riding are popular. Pleasant Saturday afternoons are often spent visiting the points of historic interest in and about Albany. During the winter the women form classes in physical training under a competent teacher, and the gymnasium of the Y. M. C. A. is open to the men.

The students are advised to attend all of the best concerts and plays, and tickets to many private entertainments are given to the school. Mrs. Dewey and Miss Cutler are continually throwing open their pleasant homes for informal receptions. "Work while you work and play while you play" might be considered the motto of the school, from the zeal with which all enter into the various entertainments provided for these evenings.

The graduate from the Library School does not claim the title of "expert Librarian" so often thrust upon him by the newspaper reporter, but well understands that years of varied practical experience must first be added to the foundation laid at Albany. Both by precept and example the instructors in the Library School aim not only to teach the mechanical details of a librarian's work—necessary as those are; but to inspire in each graduate the belief that only by a patient giving of his best, mentally, physically, and socially, to the study of the individual needs of the place where his lot is cast can his library take its proper place with the church, the school, and the press—the four great factors toward the betterment of the community.

THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE AT ATLANTA.

The Conference of Women Librarians which convened in the Assembly Hall of the Women's Building of the Cotton States and International Exposition, November 29 and 30, under the auspices of the Woman's Board of Managers, was an interesting meeting, and it is to be hoped that much good will result to the benefit of the library movement in the South.

Several northern librarians of note were present, and the papers read before the congress were of such general interest that the Commissioner of Education has decided to print them in convenient form for circulation.

Among those present were Miss Hannah P. James, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Miss Nina E. Browne, of the Library Bureau, Boston; Miss Mary S. Sargent, of Medford, Mass.; Miss Alice B. Kroeger, of Drexel Institute, Philadelphia; Mrs. Moses Wadley, of Augusta; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Carr, of Scranton, Pa.; Mr. R. R. Bowker; Miss Sarah Frierson, of the Library of the University of Georgia; Miss S. A. Field, of the Agnes Scott Library of Decatur, Ga.; Mr. H. C. Lansdale, of the Rome Library; Miss Addie C. Moses, of the Mobile Public Library; Miss Clara Byers, librarian of the Women's Library; Miss Annie C. Miller, for some years connected with the cataloging department of the Boston Public Library; Miss Edith Tobitt, assistant librarian of Omaha Public Library; Mrs. A. E. Buck, president of the History Class of Atlanta; Mrs. M. French-Sheldon, London; Mrs. J. K. Ottley, Atlanta; Mrs. James M. Couper, Atlanta; Mrs. Wm. J. Northern, Miss Northern; Mr. A. V. Gude, director of the Young Men's Library of Atlanta; Mrs. Joseph Le Conte, of California; and Mr. S. P. Jones, assistant secretary of the Young Men's Library of Atlanta.

Mrs. Porter King, chairman of the library committee received and entertained those attending the Librarians' Congress at an afternoon tea at her residence, 73 Merritts avenue, November 29, from 4 to 7 o'clock, as a delightful forerunner of delights to follow.

The first session was called to order at 11 o'clock, Friday, November 29. Mrs. Porter King, chairman of the library committee of the Board of Women Managers, in the absence of Mrs. Louisa M. Gordon, chairman of Women's Congresses, introduced Miss Wallace as chairman of the day. Mrs. King said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I welcome you in behalf of the Women's Board, and it becomes my duty, owing to the absence of Mrs. Gordon, to introduce to you the chairman of the day, to whose earnest efforts the success of this meeting is due. Miss Wallace has for some years been connected with the Young Men's Library of this city, and is greatly interested in the future of library work in the South. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Miss Wallace."

On assuming the duties of chairman, Miss Wallace said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: It gives me great

pleasure to welcome you in behalf of the committee having in charge the Librarians' Congress. We thank you for your prompt and hearty response to our call for aid in stimulating library growth in the South.

"While it would take too much of your valuable time for me to attempt even an outline of the condition of library work in the South, suffice it to say that we realize that the West and the East, with their rich and well-organized municipal governments, have far outstripped us in the development of the modern library movement. (The Boston Public Library of to-day has a quick delivery between the library and the substations that travels at a pace that we associate only with the little red wagon of our fire chief. Imagine the evolution that necessitates such a condition.)

"In regard to the absence of the free public library in our section, we call attention to the fact that few if any of the southern states have a law allowing direct taxation for the support of public libraries. Until this legislation is corrected our only hope is the establishment and maintenance of the library association as it now exists in our cities. With dues at a nominal rate and a generous policy in regard to the use of library books in the reading-room by the general public, much good can be effected. The need of keeping in touch with the schools of the city is felt, and the pupils should be made to feel that the library is an adjunct to the schools. A small library, well administered, is capable of much good in any community, and it is for this purpose that we have convened the present congress and offer a program of papers on practical library economy.

"We urge the need of state library associations. The American Library Association has done much toward the growth of the modern library idea, but to the librarians of small town libraries, unable to avail themselves of the superior advantages of a national organization, a state association offers many advantages. In this day of professional brotherhoods the librarians should unite their interests and each reap the benefit of the other's experience.

"A glance at our program reveals the names of some of the best-known librarians of the country. With the same spirit that characterizes the success at Atlanta of the Exposition, we have sought and obtained the best, and it is with no little pride that we present the following program."

Miss Wallace then introduced Miss Hannah P. James, of the Oesterhaut Public Library of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who read a paper on "The public libraries of America." Miss James gave the history of the library growth in this country for the last quarter of a century, and spoke earnestly of the co-operation that must exist between the school and the library, saying "as the key to the treasure-house, so is the school to the library."

The paper on "Library training schools," which was prepared by Miss Mary W. Plummer, of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, was read by Miss Miller, of Boston. The success of the training school is a modern achievement and arrived

in time to check the downward tendency of appointing librarians from other motives than that of fitness. Miss Plummer's paper was listened to with much interest. Miss Wallace next introduced Mrs. Moses Wadley, of Augusta, Ga., a woman of broad interests and especially devoted to the development of the modern library idea. Mrs. Wadley read a paper on the "Libraries of the West," prepared by Mrs. Carrie W. Whitney, librarian of the Kansas City Public Library. Mrs. Whitney gave an account of the early pioneers of the West in establishing a library in a new country. In closing her paper, Mrs. Whitney spoke of the personal influence of the librarian as the keynote of library success: "It is this that is creating a growing interest in art, literature, and general culture, an increasing demand for good books and less call for ephemeral literature."

The second session of the Library Conference was called at 11 o'clock, Saturday, Nov. 30, Miss Wallace presiding.

The first paper on the program was "Library work in its relation to the public school," presented by Miss Mary S. Sargent, of Medford, Mass. In introducing Miss Sargent Miss Wallace said: "The success of the modern library idea is due to the intimate relation that exists between the public library and the public schools. At an early date the child is taught to look upon the library as the complement of the school, and I know of no one better able to talk to us on this line than Miss Sargent, who has been so successful in the work."

Miss Sargent spoke of the many improvements in library life since the organization of the American Library Association and the publication of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*. A library is no longer simply a storehouse for books, but an active factor in the educational world. Culture without college training is possible—but not without books. The pupil should be taught familiarity with books and how to use them.

Miss Alice B. Kroeger, of the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, followed Miss Sargent with an article on "The American Library Association." Under this title Miss Kroeger touched upon the many questions of vital interest to the student of library economy. The paper was free from technicalities and was listened to with interest.

Miss Nina E. Browne, of the Library Bureau, Boston, was next introduced. Miss Browne spoke of the modern office and counting-room with their many labor-saving devices which facilitated the work to be accomplished, and of how the Library Bureau had undertaken to supply such necessary library appliances, and how library work had become systematized and simplified by such aids.

Miss Browne touched upon the various methods of classification, cataloging, etc. She also spoke of the origin of the Bureau in 1876, when the secretary of the A. L. A. took the responsibility of establishing a bureau that would furnish the most improved library appliances. The growth of this institution is another evidence of the stimulus that library growth has received in the last 25 years in contrast with the

old times when the only requisites for the library were a "fossil for librarian and a chain for the books."

Mrs. French-Sheldon, who was an interested visitor at the conference, made an informal talk on the relation between the publisher and the librarian, in which she urged the need of greater co-operation, as the interests of both should be the same.

This closed the conference, the first which has been held in the South. And while the attendance was entirely inadequate to the worth of the papers read it is to be hoped that the future will show good results from the meeting.

The social side of the congress was a very pleasant one and a feeling of good fellowship characterized the informal gatherings.

Besides this pleasant social gathering at the home of Mrs. Porter King, upon their first arrival the visitors greatly enjoyed a social reception tendered by the Board of Directors and Miss Wallace at the Young Men's Library on Saturday evening.

One of the most agreeable episodes of the stay in Atlanta was a visit by several of the party from the North to the State Capitol and the State Library, where they were pleasantly received by the veteran state librarian, Col. John Milledge—whose name has been known in the annals of the state for five generations. Col. Milledge is a cavalry veteran of the war on the Confederate side, and is the author of the "Bugle Song," well known among Southern cavalrymen, which we reprint in this issue.

With many expressions of good-will the visitors departed with promises to meet at Cleveland in September, 1896.

THE BUGLE-CALL.

Song by Lieutenant-Colonel John Milledge, Librarian State Library, Georgia.

I love to feel on my bridle bit

The champ of a thoroughbred,
When the bugle call and the ringing hoof

Tell of the charge ahead.

There is no sound, there is no song that stirs a soldier's soul
Like the bugle-call and the ringing hoof and the charge of his brigade.

In squadron front, with closed ranks,
Together side by side,
With bounding steed and sabre raised,
Straight to the front we ride.

There is no fear, there is no doubt, but ev'ry man responds
To the bugle-call and the ringing hoof in the charge of his brigade.

When the battle's o'er, and the roll is called,
As in the ranks we stand,
There's many a horse that finds his place

Without a guiding hand;

His rider's gone, and all alone, he rushes to respond
To the bugle-call and the ringing hoof in the charge of his brigade.

There's many a horse and many a man
Who, charging in the fray,
Together fight, together fall,

Together pass away;

In years to come the mem'ry of these scenes will still remain,
Of the bugle-call and the ringing hoof in the charge of our brigade.

THE YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY OF ATLANTA, GA.

THE Young Men's Library Association of Atlanta, Ga., was organized August 19, 1867, by a small number of energetic young men, undaunted by the desolation and poverty of a city but lately in ashes.

To Mr. Darwin G. Jones is due the honor of the initial step that led to the organization of the library association as it stands to-day. The late Capt. Henry Jackson was the first president, and the directory has been composed of the foremost men of the South. Mr. Grady was for many years a leading spirit, and Mr. Hoke Smith served the library as president for two terms.

From its first inception the library became a pet institution of the city, and through the energy of its board of directors and the ladies of the city "grab-bag" fairs, art-loans, and bazaars were held for its benefit, and a good sum was realized. This became the nucleus of the purchase money for the library building on Decatur street, which was erected in 1881, and sold because of the poor location in May, 1892. This was a fortunate financial deal for the association, as it enabled the directors to purchase a desirable location, to pay off a bonded indebtedness, and to put aside \$12,000 as a nest-egg for a permanent endowment fund. To-day the library is on a sound basis, without a dollar of debt, and with sufficient income, when economically administered, to meet current expenses.

The present building is a pleasant Southern home, at the corner of Marietta and Cane sts., in the centre of the city, two blocks from the Post-Office, embowered in trees, and delightful without and within. The house has been fitted for library use by making the two stories into one, and the reading-room and directors' room are fittingly adorned with portraits of notable men of the state.

With no help from the city government, with only one bequest (\$1000 bequeathed by the late Benj. Kidd), the library has steadily grown in usefulness, and is a monument to the individual efforts of the board of directors, who have always been ready to give their time and money for the upbuilding of the library.

The management of the library is generous in the policy of opening the reading-rooms to the public, and only for home use of the books is a membership fee collected.

The library is in close sympathy with the schools of the city, and the students are its daily visitors.

Special attention is paid to the department of Georgia archives and history.

At the last meeting of the directors it was decided to have the books reclassified on the Dewey decimal system and a card catalog instituted.

A vote of thanks to Mr. R. R. Bowker was unanimously passed, expressing appreciation of his valuable gift of "The American Catalogue."

The following is a list of the present officers and board of directors:

Officers: President, George R. De Saussure; Vice-President, J. R. Nutting; Secretary, E. M. Mitchell; Treasurer, M. T. La Hatte.

Directors: Hooper Alexander, F. J. Paxon, C. I. Branan, L. L. Knight, W. M. Slaton, E. C. Kontz, A. A. Meyer, F. M. Scott, C. F. Rice, T. E. Horton, A. V. Gude, C. A. Read.

Librarian, Anne Wallace.

Assistant Secretary, S. P. Jones.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND ITS BURNED LIBRARY.

In the Quarterly Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia (v. 2, no. 3) is printed an interesting summary of the history and development of the library, written by the librarian, Mr. F. W. Page, just previous to the fire which on October 27 nearly destroyed the rotunda building and library collection. The number is chiefly given up to a description of the fire and of the plans for rebuilding, which, so far as they relate to the library, we summarize in the hope that the appeals of the university may be seconded to the full of their power by librarians throughout the country in offering duplicates and other help.

"While the greater number were laboring in the annex, some, mindful of the treasures in the library, had hurried hither. It did not yet seem probable that the rotunda would be destroyed. The flames were rapidly running the length of the long annex but between this and the rotunda was a large connecting portico. Surely the devastating progress of the fire could be arrested here. The rotunda roof would be a vantage-ground from which to fight the dire foe, and the portico seemed a narrow bridge over which this enemy must pass. The danger grew with every moment. Appeals for help had been sent to Richmond, Lynchburg, and Staunton. Fruitless efforts were made to reach with water the burning roof. The library was now full of hurrying men, and women, too; their arms piled high with books. Faster and more furious grew the flames; faster and more zealously worked the men within, saving the books and pictures in easy reach. Blow down the portico! was the cry; warning was given to the surging crowd and loud explosions followed. But the portico had been well built. The falling columns left the roof intact; and even after all of them had been shattered, it still remained, a fatal bridge over which the enemy quickly moved. The roof was now a burning mass and the flames drew near the library. Renewed zeal was infused into the workers when it became certain that the library was lost. The long flames lapped the rotunda, just over the little room opening from the upper gallery. This room was filled with files of old papers, stacks of addresses and catalogs, unassorted engravings, and the Bohn collection of books. All of this inflammable material fed the fire, and the rotunda roof was wrapped in flames. The ardor of students and friends knew no bounds. The Jefferson statue, which had been hoisted to its place by patient and slow processes, was lifted from its pedestal, drawn

on a mattress through the room, safely eased down the curving stair, and deposited upon the lawn. The sum total of the damage to it was a slight chipping of the edge of the drapery.

"The Minor bust, the pictures, the furniture, and most of the books on the lower floor were saved. As the crackling timbers and falling plaster warned all of the impending danger, less care and more haste prevailed. Books were thrown from the windows with little regard for their covers or their completeness. A rush was made for the galleries. In vain. It is easy now to see that, if the books upstairs had been saved first, the others could have been saved even after the fire was well advanced. But who thought of that then? And as it was, the work was nobly done."

The faculty on the 31st of October presented a report and appeal of which the following recommendations are a part:

"II. That the two wings to the rotunda be at once reconstructed in their former proportions, but of fire-proof materials, and assigned to the use of the library and the school of natural philosophy, respectively. The remnants of our library, stored temporarily in cellars and garrets, are now collecting on the floor of the Natural History Museum; but for any real use by professors or students the books must be shelved in some accessible apartment. The condition of our philosophical apparatus in the same way renders the work of instruction exceedingly difficult and extravagantly laborious. Finally, the enforced use of the museum as a place of deposit for these objects has made it necessary to close this building entirely to visitors.

"III. That the visitors engage a competent architect and instruct him to propose plans for the restoration of the rotunda, but in fire-proof materials. The walls of this building need little repair, but should be at once protected against damage from weather. The faculty feels that the original proportions of this central building should be religiously observed, but recommends that a new portico should be erected on the north side corresponding to that on the south, with proper flights of steps descending to the esplanade to be formed over the site of the old annex, and thence at the ramparts to the level of the ground. The faculty also respectfully calls the attention of the visitors to the fact that the old library-room had become so crowded with books that an orderly arrangement of them was impossible, and the consequent utility of the collection was seriously impaired. They therefore recommend that the architect be instructed so to design the interior of the building that the whole of the capacity from the dome down to the portico floor may hereafter be readily and simply utilized for library purposes, and they request that he be also instructed to consult with their library committee as to the details of this design. They also advise that the architect be instructed to give especial attention to the problems of heating, lighting, and ventilation, which, in the old building, were inadequately solved.

"VIII. The faculty is deeply impressed with the propriety of following in these new buildings

classical types of designs and of locating them so as to create an harmonious combination with the original Jeffersonian group. As we examine the additions made to this system by Jefferson's successors, we are forced to confess with a certain shame that not one of them has added in the least degree to the harmony and beauty and magnificence of the original composition. We recommend, therefore, that the visitors select as their professional adviser a man not of local repute only, but of broad and national consideration; that he be instructed to consider in his designs not merely the convenience and elegance of the single structure, but its effect as a member of our general architectural system."

The alumni, in their appeal to the public, say:

"Our faculty have resolved to recommend to the visitors the immediate reconstruction of the rotunda and its wings with fire-proof materials, and refitting of the former with the most approved and modern library appliances. The estimated cost of this restoration and improvement is about \$80,000. The library, sadly diminished in volume and value by our misfortune, needs especial subsidies. At least \$50,000 should be at once provided for the purchase of new books to re-establish its present usefulness; and an endowment of \$50,000 should be provided to give it liberal maintenance for the future."

MR. SPOFFORD'S SPECIAL REPORT ON THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

UNDER date of December 2, 1895, Mr. A. R. Spofford has replied to a resolution of Congress, passed last March, as to a reorganization of the Library of Congress and the separation of the law library. Mr. Spofford makes this an opportunity to trace the history and development of the library, including the copyright office, since 1865, quoting from his appeal in his interesting report of 1872, when there were 246,000 volumes in the library, which he reckoned would be increased to 700,000 by 1900. There are already 725,000 volumes, besides about 250,000 pamphlets. The copyright entries, 1870-94, show a total of 701,714, including, of course, music, drama, art works, periodicals, etc. Nearly 100,000 new publications of all kinds are now received per year.

Mr. Spofford emphasizes the vast difficulties of providing in past years for these accumulations, describes the proposed disposition of the rooms in the new building, devotes a full page to a category of his personal duties, and says as to the financial charges against him:

"There have been times when the utterly insufficient force and the pressure upon the librarian of official work which could not be postponed or neglected has led to arrears in accounts which were deeply regretted. He shrinks from no responsibility in this or in any other matter, and while candidly admitting a sense of humiliation that any errors should be laid to his charge, he claims with equal candor that while he may have erred in construing too

liberally certain provisions of law, he is free from any conscious wrongdoing."

He then outlines the duties and the proper administration of the copyright office, and says finally, in direct reply to the resolution:

"Respecting the general question of the re-organization of the entire library service, it may be gathered from what has been laid before Congress that the following departments or divisions are deemed important: (1) Printed books, (2) periodicals, (3) manuscripts, (4) maps and charts, (5) works of art, (6) catalog department, (7) binding department, (8) copyright office and records, (9) superintendence.

"Each of these divisions should have a competent head, and the salaries of those employed in each should be graduated in proportion to experience, capacity, and responsibility. Minor divisions, especially in the department of printed books, will be necessary, but into details of the distribution of duties, among those especially skilled in various divisions of knowledge, the librarian will not now enter, in view of the length of this report. . . .

"It remains to advert briefly to the question included in the instruction of Congress to the librarian, as to the expediency of removing the law library to the new building. While the ultimate accommodation of this department in that edifice may be deemed highly desirable, yet, so long as the Supreme Court continues its sessions in the Capitol, the undersigned believes that the convenience of that tribunal, as well as that of Congress, would be best subserved by continuing the law library in its present location, or, perhaps, accommodating it in one of the upper halls to be vacated.

"The uses to which the space in the existing library of Congress may be applied after the removal demand the careful consideration of Congress. It is suggested that a working reference library of from 10,000 to 20,000 volumes might usefully be left in the central library hall, where senators and representatives could enjoy a quiet opportunity for researches, in preparing their reports or speeches, free from the intrusion of the public. This selection of volumes might include not only the principal encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other works of reference, but also one copy of the more important American and British authors. This could be done from the duplicates of the main library, which would thus remain unimpaired as library of reference. The two wings of the library, with their iron shelving, are admirably adapted for the orderly arrangement and safe preservation of the very valuable manuscript archives of the Senate and House, now exposed in rooms which are far from fire-proof. The Senate documentary library might also be accommodated in one of the wings, without materially interfering with the purpose referred to. The further suggestion occurs of making more rooms for the committees of Congress, and, in the judgment of the architect of the Capitol, about 12 such rooms (six in each wing) might be fitted up, although this would quite preclude the proposed safekeeping of the papers of Congress. This

subject is commended to the attention of both Houses.

"The librarian may be permitted to add, in connection with the auspicious opening at a period not now remote of the new and commodious library building, that its public usefulness would be greatly enhanced were Congress to provide for making its stores accessible to the public during the evening hours. While it is neither safe nor expedient to make it a library of circulation, which is incompatible with its uses as a great and comprehensive library of reference, there appears no good reason why its advantages should not be as liberally extended as is compatible with its safety and preservation."

GOVERNMENTAL REPORTS, 1895, ON PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

PUBLIC PRINTER.

THE Annual Report of the Public Printer for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, was presented to the President of the Senate by Th. E. Benedict, under date of Dec. 17, 1895, and has just been issued. It includes the usual statement of number, cost, and distribution of each government document printed, and other tables. In reference to the "Document Division," Mr. Benedict says:

"After much reflection, I appointed Mr. F. A. Crandall, of Buffalo, N. Y., a gentleman whose recommendations for the position were of the highest, and who possessed an additional qualification, viz., that he would have nothing to unlearn in order to carry out the evident intention of Congress to secure better methods and greater efficiency in the distribution of public documents. He entered upon his duties March 26, and has made most satisfactory progress in the work, although encountering many difficulties, not the least of which has been the want of convenient storage-room.

"With the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing, the sixth floor of the Union Building, situated on G street N.W., was leased for the use of the document division. This building is said to be fire-proof, and was the only available one of that nature conveniently located.

"The space is, however, limited—too limited to hold all the documents committed to my charge by law—and as I have been thus far unable to secure any other suitable fire-proof room or building I have deemed it prudent to refuse to accept control of a great many valuable books now in safe places in departments and offices and remove them to a building where they would be exposed to destruction by fire."

SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS.

The first report of the Superintendent of Documents, Mr. F. A. Crandall, dated Oct. 1, 1895, is included in the above and is also published separately, with appendixes giving statistics of distribution, comments of librarians, and the present list of public depositories.

Speaking of the difficulties of classified storage, Mr. Crandall says:

"After some consideration I devised a sort of combination of library 'stacks' and storage 'bins,' of which 78 have been built, containing 2340 bins, each of which will hold from 75 to 300 books according to the size of the volumes, giving room for more than 300,000 documents, at a cost only about a fifth as great as that of shelving of equal capacity. These answer perfectly the purpose of classified storage for which they were designed. But they cover a great area, and to make their contents immediately and surely available a key was needed. This was provided in a library exclusively of public documents, to contain one copy of every publication of the Government of which any duplicates were in my possession. When this library has been properly classified and cataloged its shelves will unlock the treasures of the public documents and make all their contents immediately and practically available for the uses of the officers of the Government and the public at large.

"No very great progress has been made with this plan, for several reasons. The bins have been built, and many thousand books have been received, cleaned, assorted, and placed in them; but the library which is to be the key to their contents has been delayed by several causes. In the first place, I was entirely unable to find anybody who could tell me how many volumes I must provide shelf-room for in order to make as complete a collection as possible of public documents. Only one recognized authority on the subject ventured an opinion, and he, when I told him I had made up my mind to provide for 10,000, predicted that I would never be able to find so many different volumes. However, that amount of shelving was provided, and it had not been up a fortnight before it was evident that it would not be sufficient. It was decided to increase the capacity of the library 50 per cent., but there has been delay in securing the additional fire-proof shelving, and that has been one cause that has hindered the library organization."

As to future cataloging he says:

"The plan on which it is proposed to pursue the cataloging of the public documents contemplates that the force employed on the catalogs which are by law required to be printed shall begin at the Fifty-third Congress and work forward, keeping pace with the future publications of Congress and the departments, and issuing an annual volume of the 'comprehensive index' promptly following the adjournment of Congress each year. At the same time it is contemplated that the library force shall begin at the Fifty-second Congress and catalog backward, going as far as they can find anything to catalog, and thus making the two branches of the cataloging work connect with and supplement each other. The catalog of the public documents printed during the period from March 4, 1893, to June 30, 1895 (being the 'comprehensive index' provided for in section 62 of the act providing for the public printing and binding and the distribution of public documents, approved January 12, 1895), is at the

date of this report substantially complete, but it must have thorough revision, and it may therefore be some weeks before it can be sent to the printer.

"The Monthly Catalogue provided for in section 69 of the act hereinbefore referred to has been before the public since early in August, and has been well received."

As to the clearing-house work he says:

"Mr. John G. Ames, as superintendent of documents in the Interior Department, devised a plan of clearing documents between libraries that proved of general benefit. I have been asked by several librarians to continue it, and I needed no urging to agree to do so, as its advantages are obvious, and it is only through this office that such a plan could be worked. The depository libraries receive from this office only one copy of any public document; nevertheless they accumulate great numbers of duplicates. This results mainly from the favor of members of Congress, who apparently seldom stop to inquire whether a library to which they wish to send a book is a designated depository and therefore sure to receive the same book from another source. Many of the depository libraries are also on the list of the Smithsonian Institution and various bureaus, and receive their reports first in cloth and afterward from this office in sheep. In some cases these duplicates have been accumulating for many years, and among them are found some of the earliest publications of the Government. Many of the libraries, while having duplicates of some documents, have no copies at all of others, making breaks in their sets which they are desirous to fill. Other libraries may have duplicates of those which the first named are lacking and themselves be lacking those of which the others have a surplus. This office undertakes to receive the duplicates from those libraries which wish to be relieved of them and to supply the deficiencies of those which have broken sets. To enable this to be accomplished with ease and certainty, Mr. Ames compiled a check-list of public documents on which librarians might indicate by a simple check-mark the documents they lacked to complete their sets. The first edition of this check-list is exhausted. I have a second and considerably enlarged edition of it in press. It will make a volume of considerably over 200 pages, packed with information relating to the public documents, and I hope will be found useful, not only by librarians, but by all who have occasion to consult public documents."

The happy suggestion is made that members of Congress should hereafter send to their constituents orders for books instead of the books themselves, which possibly are not wanted and will only be given out to waste. The report is full of information and suggestion, and should be generally read.

DOCUMENT-ROOM, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Mr. John G. Ames, under date of Nov. 15, 1895, submits to the Secretary of the Interior his

report, up to July 1 as to his work of distribution, over his present signature as "Clerk in charge of Documents," appending to it 13 pages of favorable comment from librarians and others on his Comprehensive Index 1889-'93. As to a possible continuation of this backward, he says:

"Very soon after the publication of my last report the Comprehensive Index of Government Publications, 1889-1893, to which reference was made therein, was issued. . . .

"There is now a general desire that a similar index to all prior publications of the Government be prepared at the earliest practicable day. If an index covering only four years is found to be of such practical utility, one covering the whole period of government history would prove almost invaluable. Nothing else would so greatly enhance the worth of public documents and increase their use, for such an index would be a key to unlock vast treasure-houses which hitherto have been inaccessible, and will continue to be so until the key is supplied. . . .

"If the publication of the Comprehensive Index for 1889-1893, in which you took so warm an interest, shall prove in any measure instrumental in the accomplishment of this vastly larger and more important work, the labor and expense involved in its preparation will be fully justified."

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

A "LIBRARY Assistants' Association" has been formed in England, "to promote," as its rules show, "the social, intellectual, and professional interests of its members." The committee, in pursuance of these objects, are arranging a series of fortnightly meetings, at which papers on subjects of professional interest will be read. It is also proposed to hold social meetings at irregular intervals. The chairman of the committee is Mr. Robert Alec Peddie, who will receive applications for membership addressed to him at 9 Weltje Road, Hammersmith, London; the hon. treasurer is Mr. Ernest H. Caddie, Battersea Public Libraries, 53 Leathwaite Road, Clapham Common, London; the hon. secretary is Mr. F. Meaden Roberts, St. George, Hanover Square, Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, London; and the committee include Messrs. H. Oliver Bursill, Newington Public Library; Harry G. T. Cannons, Clerkenwell Public Library; A. H. Carter, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library; S. J. Clarke, Chelsea Public Library; E. E. England, West Ham Public Libraries; B. M. Headicar, St. Saviour's Public Library, Southwark; Arthur Nash, Clapham Public Library; Frank J. Peplow, Camberwell Central Library; Edward Quinn, Lambeth Central Library, and Wm. Vellenoweth, Minet Public Library.

The following are the rules:

1. *Name.*—The association shall be called "The Library Assistants' Association."
2. *Objects.*—Its objects shall be to promote the social, intellectual, and professional interests of

its members, by meetings of a social character, by discussions on professional subjects, and in such other ways as may be suggested from time to time.

3. *Ordinary Members.*—(a) All persons engaged in library administration, other than chief librarians, shall be eligible for election. Applications shall be made in writing to the hon. secretary, and shall be considered at the next meeting of the committee. (b) When a member is raised to the status of chief librarian, or leaves the profession, such person shall cease to be a member six months after his promotion. (c) The association at any ordinary meeting of not less than 20 members, shall have power to expel any member by a vote of two-thirds of those present. Such member shall have the right of appeal to the annual general meeting.

4. *Hon. Members.*—The committee shall have the power of electing hon. members, who shall not have the right of voting.

5. *Subscription.*—(a) The annual subscription shall be 5s. for senior, and 2s. 6d. for junior assistants, payable in advance from the date of election. (b) Members being six months in arrear with their subscriptions shall cease to belong to the association.

6. *Officers.*—(a) The officers of the association shall consist of chairman, treasurer, secretary, and a committee of 10, who shall be elected at the annual meeting. (b) Not more than one member from the same library shall be eligible to serve as an officer of the association at the same time. (c) In the event of any of these offices falling vacant, the vacancy shall be filled at the next ordinary meeting of the association.

7. *Meetings.*—(a) There shall be an annual meeting, of which due notice shall be given. (b) Ordinary meetings shall be held at such times and places as shall be decided by the committee. (c) Special general meetings shall be called on the requisition of 10 members of the association.

8. *Procedure.*—Amendments to these rules shall only be considered at the annual meeting, or at a special general meeting convened for that purpose.

The association is organized in connection with the L. A. U. K. and has its cordial support. The committee has already made considerable progress in collecting a technical library for the use of library assistants.

A FRENCH REPORT ON AMERICAN LIBRARIES.

M. LE SONDIER, French Commissioner on Libraries at the Chicago World's Fair, has published his report, from which we extract the following interesting chapter:

"The United States offers a wide field for books and newspapers of every language. Works of all kinds, scientific and literary, and all sorts of newspapers have there a considerable number of readers.

"The United States is perhaps the richest in

libraries. The public libraries, those of the universities and colleges for boys and girls, the private libraries, and those of numberless institutions or associations are similar to an immense reservoir wherein fall all mental productions. The yearly income of a university often reaches the sum of 500,000, 1,000,000, 2,000,000, even. The poorest university has an annual income of 45,000.

"These numerous libraries are richly endowed, either by gifts of money or of books or by royal donations from American protectors of art.

"To give an idea of the richness of certain libraries it is sufficient to quote a few figures. There are at present in the United States about 4000 libraries, containing more than 31,000,000 volumes, 27,000,000 of which are bound. For a total population of 63,000,000 this makes an average of one library for 16,000 inhabitants, and an average of 50 volumes for 100 inhabitants. The states which are richer in volumes are those which border on the Atlantic Ocean. The state of Massachusetts, with a population of 2,200,000, possesses more than 500 libraries, containing 6,000,000 volumes. The state of New York, with the same number of libraries, possesses 4,500,000 volumes for a population of 6,000,000. The state of Pennsylvania, with 350 libraries, contains 3,000,000 volumes for a population of 5,500,000.

"All the states are not as well favored. Texas has 4 volumes for 100 inhabitants, and the District of Columbia has 924 volumes for 100 inhabitants. In the state of Massachusetts there are 63 times as many volumes as in Texas. It is estimated that there are in the United States 3 libraries of more than 500,000 volumes, 1 of 300,000 to 500,000 volumes, 26 of 100,000 to 300,000, 68 of 50,000 to 100,000, 128 of 25,000 to 50,000, 383 of 10,000 to 25,000, 565 of 5000 to 10,000, and 2600 of 1000 to 5000.

"In the public libraries readers have the greatest facility to read or to take out books. Thus the public has formed the habit of going to the library instead of to the booksellers. The buying public is smaller in numbers than in Europe. There is a great deal of reading in the United States, and women form the strongest contingent of readers. Men have not the time to read. They are content with newspapers, which form the only reading-matter of most of the business men of North America. This explains the fabulous circulation of political papers. There are often 32 pages in a Sunday paper.

"Women have more leisure. Unlike men, who usually leave school for business at 15 or 16 years of age, women often study until 20 years of age. When married, a woman continues to study. Thus men who are not members of a liberal profession have only a modest education, whereas women possess instruction of a higher level. This intellectual predominance of the feminine element insures in the public libraries much room for works of literature and novels, whereas in universities classic authors and scientific books predominate."

THE LIBRARIAN'S PASTIME READING.

Extract from a talk on "Work in a Library," by J. C. Dana, Librarian Denver P. L., before the teachers of Denver.

He is perhaps not a true librarian who does not prefer the latest catalog to the latest novel. To the bookman proper books are very pleasant as an occasional pastime; catalogs are daily food. This reading of literature and this bibliographical study give one information about the books that were written 20, 40, 50 years ago. To-day, in the growing library, the careful buyer must keep himself informed as to books published this morning. To do this he must read current books and criticisms. We all know where Marion Crawford stands, let us say, and can tell pretty accurately what his next book will be like before it is printed, how thin it will be; how many literary-soda-water inebriates will grab for it. But who shall tell us of Sarah Grand and the "Heavenly twins"? The good critics try to. So the library man patiently, not to say eagerly, if he is to the manner born, goes through the *Critic*, and the *Dial*, and the *Book-Buyer*, and the *Publishers' Weekly*, and the *Publishers' Circular*, and *Book News*, and *Book Chat*, and the *Nation*, and the *Atlantic*, and perhaps the *London Spectator*, and *Speaker*, and *Athenaeum*, and *Academy*, and a few other such literary journals, as they come each week and month, with occasional excursions into the book notices in technical journals and magazines on electricity, mining, railroads, and science in general. This book notice and catalog reading the librarian does between whiles. It is not his work; it is his pastime. He reads, or has read, as everybody well knows, all the books already purchased and on the shelves. He oversees the daily work in the library. He answers questions, or tries to, about the color of Lowell's hair when he was a boy, and the age of the cliff-dwellings, and the virtues of the income tax, and the position of the centre of the universe. He looks after the library accounts. He quells public insurrections arising from an assistant's refusal to permit some one to carry off the whole library at once. He writes and answers innumerable letters and makes himself useful in a variety of other ways. Meantime and between whiles he endeavors to keep informed as to Dr. Chas. R. Briggs's latest denial, Prof. Ely's last economic sweetmeats, the differences, if any, between "Dodo" and "Dora Thorne," etc. etc.

"But with all his reading and study he is not yet ready to buy the books for his library. He must first take into consideration not simply the standing of the book among other books of its class, and its fitness to fill out a weak place in the library, and the condition of the finances of the library—he must especially keep in mind the character of the constituency of the library, —is it seeking friends and readers or can it afford to buy the best books even though at present they do not attract new readers? All these things and others does he bear in mind. And he is perhaps fairly ready now to decide to buy a book."

FAVORITE BOOKS AT A UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT.

THE following list shows the books most in demand at the University Settlement of Delancy street, New York City, and was prepared by Miss Moore, librarian of the Settlement house. It gives the books in the order of their popularity.

- 1 Uncle Tom's Cabin. H. B. Stowe.
- 2 U. S. History. Edward Eggleston.
- 3 At the Back of the North Wind. Geo. Macdonald.
- 4 Seven Little Sisters. Jane Andrews.
- 5 Stories Mother Nature Told Her Children. Jane Andrews.
- 6 The New Year's Bargain. Susan Coolidge.
- 7 Alice in Wonderland. Lewis Carroll.
- 8 Donald and Dorothy. Mary Mapes Dodge.
- 9 Winning His Way. Charles Carlton Coffin.
- 10 Boys of '61. " " "
- 11 Boys of '76. " " "
- 12 The Man Without a Country. (Illustrated Edition.) E. E. Hale.
- 13 Little Lord Fauntleroy. Mrs. F. H. Burnett.
- 14 Timothy's Quest. Kate Douglas Wiggin.
- 15 Birds' Christmas Carol. Kate Douglas Wiggin.
- 16 Children's Book. H. E. Scudder.
- 17 Crowded Out o' Crofield. William O. Stoddard.
- 18 Letters from a Cat. H. H.
- 19 Little Men. Louisa M. Alcott.
- 20 Little Women. " "
- 21 Jo's Boys. " "
- 22 Eight Cousins and Rose in Bloom. Louisa M. Alcott.
- 23 Old-Fashioned Girl.
- 24 John Halifax. Miss Muloch.
- 25 Lamplighter. Cummins.
- 26 Hans Brinker, or, the Silver Skates. Mary Mapes Dodge.
- 27 The Story of a Bad Boy. T. B. Aldrich.
- 28 One of the 9th. G. A. Henty.
- 29 Little Smoke. W. O. Stoddard.
- 30 Life of Washington. H. R. Scudder.
- 31 Life of Lincoln. J. G. Holland.
- 32 Life of Garfield. Horatio Alger.
- 33 The Prince and the Pauper. Mark Twain.
- 34 Uncle Sam's Medal of Honor.
- 35 Rab and His Friends. John Brown, M.D.
- 36 Story of the City of New York. Theodore Roosevelt.
- 37 Red Fairy Book. A. Lang.
- 38 Blue " " "
- 39 Green " " "
- 40 Juan and Juanita. Frances Courtenay Baylor.
- 41 Captain January. Laura E. Richards.
- 42 Editha's Burglar. Mrs. F. H. Burnett.
- 43 Little Suzy's Six Birthdays. Mrs. E. Prentiss.
- 44 " " Little Servants. " "
- 45 " " Six Teachers. " "
- 46 Child's Book of Nature. H. R. Scudder.
- 47 Five Little Peppers. Margaret Sidney.
- 48 The Moral Pirates. W. L. Alden.
- 49 Ten Boys Who Lived on the Road from Long Ago to Now. G. A. Henty.
- 50 Phil and the Baby. Lucy C. Lillie.
- 51 The Lion of the North. G. A. Henty.
- 52 The Doctor's Daughter. Sophie May.
- 53 John Jack. Lynde Palmer.
- 54 Stories of American History. N. S. Dodge.
- 55 World's Fair Book for Boys and Girls. (Century Co.)
- 56 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Jules Verne.
- 57 Old Curiosity Shop. Chas. Dickens.
- 58 Phaeton Rogers. Rossiter Johnson.
- 59 Jennie's Boarding-House.
- 60 Cudjo's Cave. J. T. Trowbridge.
- 61 The Jungle Book. Rudyard Kipling.
- 62 Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain.
- 63 The Brownies. Palmer Cox.
- 64 Big Brother. G. C. Eggleston.
- 65 Daddy Jake. Joel C. Harris.
- 66 Carrots. M. L. Molesworth.
- 67 Tell Us a Story. M. L. Molesworth.
- 68 Boy's Percy. Sidney Lanier.
- 69 Nan. Lucy C. Lillie.
- 70 Robinson Crusoe. Defoe.
- 71 Swiss Family Robinson. J. Rod. Wyss, and J. J. P. de B. Baronne Motteux.
- 72 Gypsy Breyton. E. S. Phelps.

American Library Association.

EUROPEAN TRIP, 1897.

JANUARY 6, 1896.

THE result, to date, of the vote of the members of the association on the proposition for a European post-conference trip in 1897, is as follows:

Members heard from.....	271
In favor of the resolution.....	197
Opposed.....	28
Not caring to vote.....	44
Members—will try to go.....	147
Friends members wish to take with them.....	123
Total—members and friends.....	270
Prefer May and June.....	6
Prefer June and July.....	9
Prefer July and August.....	101
Prefer August and September.....	17

This would seem to fix our meeting-place for the 1897 Conference on the Atlantic sea-coast, with a post-conference trip to Europe in July and August.

A registry of the names of members intending to go has been made. As the number of the party will undoubtedly have to be limited, members should send to the secretary the names of their friends whom they wish to take with them, that the register may be as definite as possible.

The cost of the trip will not exceed the sum named in the circular, \$290. Inquiry as to rates and routes will be made of steamship companies and tourist agencies, and the most definite information possible laid before the Cleveland Conference.

Correspondence has been opened with the officers and members of the L. A. U. K., and also with members of our own association, in regard to the most interesting route through Great Britain, and the most desirable libraries, both large and small, for us to visit. Members who wish to vote on the proposition, and have not already done so, should respond at once.

H. L. ELMENDORF, *Sec.*PUBLIC LIBRARY,
ST. JOSEPH, Mo.

TREASURER'S CARD.

MR. GEORGE WATSON COLE informs his friends that he has resigned his position of librarian of the Free Public Library of Jersey City, N. J., on account of ill health. All communications or mail matter intended for him personally should hereafter be addressed to the care of Gustav E. Stechert, 810 Broadway, New York City.

Mr. Edwin H. Anderson, librarian of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pa., has been appointed assistant treasurer of the American Library Association, and all the books and records connected with the treasurer's office have been turned over to him. Mr. Cole requests the members of the association to communicate with Mr. Anderson on all matters connected with the treasurer's office, especially those relating to membership dues, which become payable in January.

JERSEY CITY, Dec. 9, 1895.

Library Associations.

N. Y. L. A. AND N. Y. L. C.

JOINT MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1896.

THE meeting was called to order by Mr. W. F. Stevens, President of the N. Y. Library Club, who gave a brief address of welcome, and introduced Mr. S. H. Berry, vice-president of the association, as the presiding officer of the joint sessions.

Mr. Berry referred to the death of the president of the association, Mr. R. B. Pool, and of the second vice-president, Miss Louise S. Cutler. That the library movement in the state was progressing was shown by the consolidation of the three great libraries of the city, and the establishing of numerous libraries in small places throughout the state. The next five years ought to be years of great development.

On motion of Mr. Stevens a committee of five was appointed to nominate officers of the association for the coming year. Mr. W. R. Eastman announced that the list of 200 leading books of 1895 was not ready, but would be mailed to members shortly.

The regular program was then opened by Miss Moore, who read her paper on "Settlement libraries." These libraries were chiefly of service to two kinds of minds; the older minds who need stimulus and the children who need guiding; they feed the starved minds of the shop girls and factory hands, whose only reading besides the newspaper is the factory act. The duty of the library, simple and clear, is to be helpful, and to make it easier to get books than not to get them; it reaches the boys who cannot get references to the public library and young students who need guiding, and the little girls. It has an influence on cleanliness and truth-speaking, and on conduct, manners, and morals. The boy who steals another boy's hat will pay for the book he loses. It is the kindergarten, teaching how to use other libraries.

Started by Dr. Colt in 1887, in a dingy little hall, the University Settlement library in New York grew from weekly to daily openings, and is now located at 26 Delancey street, in a most crowded district. Children of foreign-born parents are its constituents. Politeness, patience, and good-nature prevail when they often have to wait more than an hour for books.

In January last the library turned away so many that an appeal was made for money and books, with considerable success. The experiment of giving charge at night during the summer months to lads from the College of N. Y. was a success. Among the books called for have been "History of Alabama and the forty thieves" and "How to get educated and how to stay so." The library contains 2500 v., membership is 1017; circulation in December last, 34,388. There is need in the lower part of city for a number of such small libraries.

In answer to queries Miss Moore said that lost books were always paid for.

Mr. Tyler thought too much pains were taken to keep books clean. When a book has done its work put another in its place.

Miss Mary S. Cutler, of the State Library School, Albany, N. Y., then read an interesting paper on "Home and club libraries." The home library idea is to give poor children books and a friend. It originated with Mr. Charles W. Birtwell, Secretary of the Children's Aid Society of Boston, who loaned books to poor children of his acquaintance and then talked them over with the children after the books were read. Organization followed and friends joined the work as visitors. A home library involves a group of 10 children, boys and girls, 20 books at the house of one circulating among them all, and a visitor of intelligence and tact who meets with the children once a week, talks over the books, and aids them in any way possible. The personal influence of the visitor is of great value. There are several groups in Albany, and once in three or four months the libraries pass from one group to another.

Books are carefully selected for these groups. Too high a grade of reading must not be expected. These children are three or four years behind children who have always been familiar with books. Disappointment must be expected. Buy good editions, with illustrations and attractive covers, which are a part of the educational influence. We furnish slip covers which may be used. Children do not read the books through at first, but learn slowly to enjoy them. They take pride in having the books clean when they pass to the next group. Balance the libraries, putting in each a volume of history, one of light travel, and a book about animals like Mrs. Jackson's cat stories "Buz," "Sparrow, the tramp." Fairy stories are the most popular. Grimm's "Household tales" are preferred to Andersen's.

The groups and libraries are named; sometimes by the giver of the library for a child whose framed picture goes with the library. We have the Columbus, Washington, Anthony Wayne, Lincoln, and Edison groups.

Games are introduced to advantage by visitors, and will be added to the libraries; as will be also selected pictures. The rule of the group is the rule of the majority; when games are proposed a vote is taken. The Columbus group has done a deal of work outside of reading the books. Music is a powerful aid, and all our children have met together on Saturdays for instruction in singing under a competent director.

But there is something deeper in all this. The movement known as the new philanthropy is one of the strong factors in our civilization to-day; it is characterized by two tendencies—1, A scientific study of the principles of philanthropy; information before reformation. 2, A spirit of friendliness; not aims but a friend. The philanthropic work of our cities is largely done by young college women, but they lack discipline. The difficulty is ignorance; the remedy study. A class in philanthropy should be organized under a competent teacher. There should be a two years' course; an hour of class work once a week; five hours a week of study for nine or 10 months of the year; with investigation of local conditions. If such class-work

were done in any city for 10 years or more its charities would feel the effect.

The paper was warmly received and later a resolution was passed approving and recommending the establishment of a class in philanthropy in this city.

Miss E. A. Bangs read a paper on "Parish libraries." In 1892 a suggestion was made that a free library be established for the use of all the associations connected with St. George's parish. Dr. Rainsford approved, funds were provided, and 2000 or more books procured and cataloged. The library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 and Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Between 400 and 500 adults and children use the library constantly. Last year the circulation was 8835. We could do more if we had more books.

The topics being thrown open for discussion, the condition of books loaned to children and the number of times a book could circulate among them before being worn out were fully considered.

Miss Hannah P. James stated that the condition of books loaned to school-children depended on the teachers.

Mr. Dewey had a different opinion now from that he held eight years ago, since his experience with his own eight-year-old boy who had a puppy given him for a Christmas present.

Miss Moore had had contaminated books fumigated, and never knew of any harm coming from any. For awhile her entire reference work depended on "Champlin's cyclopedia of common things." Then she had three reference-books, a Latin dictionary, a biographical dictionary, and a geographical gazeteer, and lately she had received the "Century cyclopedia of names." She wished for more books, especially text-books of any kind.

A visitor stated that the Unitarian Parish library with 1100 v. had circulated 10,000 v. last year.

Mr. W. R. Eastman called attention to a number of settlement and parish libraries in different parts of the city.

The University settlement was reported as open every evening and Saturday morning. They had started a scheme of lending small libraries to schools in the neighborhood, and the teachers reported a marked difference in the work done by the children in order to secure the privilege of drawing books.

Rev. J. C. Thomas spoke of the use a pastor could make of books in his parish visitations.

Mrs. F. H. Hess remarked that not only children needed help but also teachers who were ignorant of the literature of the subjects they were teaching.

Mr. Fairfield, of the Union Theological Seminary settlement said their library consisted of a chaotic collection of books, many wholly inappropriate for their wants, but they circulated 4000 v. a month. There was a greater demand for books than they could supply from the Italian children.

Mr. Frank Hill suggested that librarians show

their interest in the settlement work by making donations from their duplicates.

Mr. Nelson remarked that Miss Moore's request afforded an opportunity for disposing of the obsolete text-books that were of no use in general libraries.

Miss Moore again appealed for text-books, dictionaries, and translations.

Mr. Nelson.—We at Columbia will have to draw the line on dictionaries and "ponies."

Miss Hannah P. James read an instructive paper on "Librarians at the Atlanta Exposition." [A large portion of the paper is covered by the report on another page.] When the invitation came she supposed it meant a library movement in the South.

The reason for the lack of a general library movement seemed to be due to the feeling that if one public library was opened there would have to be another for negroes. If one endowed, free public library could be established it would do much to soften the race feeling.

The Young Men's Library at Atlanta contained 2000 v. well chosen and used; arranged by fixed location. Miss Wallace arranged a meeting with the board for Misses James and Brown, and as a result they voted to have the library "reconstructed" and classified.

Mr. Bowker arranged with Dr. Harris at Washington to have the papers read at the congress published at once and distributed widely over the South. The outcome of the congress was sure to be fine.

The question was asked if there was not some library in the South where negroes could draw books.

Mr. A. W. Tyler replied that at Wilmington, Del., the library was free to all, black and white; the colored teachers appreciated the privilege more than the white.

Mrs. Hess.—At Galveston, Tex., a bequest of \$275,000 has been made to found a library free to all.

Reference was made to the Enoch Pratt Free Public Library, at Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Richardson called attention to the well-organized system at Atlanta University for negroes. At Macon, Ga., a library connected with a church shows no distinction.

Miss Mary W. Plummer read a paper describing the "New library building of the Pratt Institute," and exhibited the plans of the same. This paper was admirably written, handling the technical subject with clearness and simplicity and avoiding tautology in dealing with similar details.

A business meeting of the New York Library Association was then held. The committee on nominations reported the following list of officers, who were elected without opposition. President, J. N. Larned, Buffalo; Vice-Pres., C. Alex. Nelson, New York, Miss M. Emogene Hazeltine, Jamestown; Sec., W. R. Eastman, Albany; Treas., J. N. Wing, New York.

The proposed change in the name of the association was discussed, and on motion the question was laid upon the table till the afternoon session.

The afternoon session was called to order at 3:10 o'clock. Mr. Henry S. Nourse, of So. Lancaster, Mass., a member of the Mass. State Library Commission, made an address on "The state and the public library." Mr. Tillinghast, president of the Mass. Commission, had, said Mr. Nourse, one very great fault—his overmodesty, and the faculty of making other people work, so the only rural member of the commission represented it to-day.

Mr. Melvil Dewey said the relation of the state to the public library was the most vital problem of the time. In the early days of the A. L. A. much attention was given to mechanical details. The time is now come to give attention to the selection of books, and for aid from the municipality, the state, and the nation. The plan originated 70 years ago when Seward, Clinton, and others in New York realized that the state must provide both schools and libraries; that education must reach both adults as well as children. The school-district libraries were provided with the school district as the unit. There were 160,000 v. in these libraries in 1853 and 1854. The community at large was required to raise an equal sum to that given by the state. The movement ran downhill for want of direction and management at the hands of trained librarians, and the books were scattered and disappeared in spite of continued state appropriations.

Libraries cannot be run successfully in connection with the school system. They must be independent and in the hands of people who make library work their main work.

In 1892 only \$25,000 appropriation was asked for and vastly more done through the library department in furnishing stimulus, inspection, information, and expert assistance without charge, conducting wide correspondence, issuing circulars and lists. Before there was nothing but a mob of libraries; now the inspector visits every library once a year; goes to see that money is not wasted; goes full of sympathy and aid. A sworn report must be made once a year, giving certain facts. Legislation in library interest is looked after, and the apportionment of state aid. A smaller amount of money does more good if followed up. \$200 to \$400 is granted to each library for purchase of books approved by the department. Immoral and weak books, and sectarian and partisan books must be rejected if already given; those unsuited to the constituency and bad editions are to be avoided.

A duplicate department is provided for exchange between libraries. Approved and annotated lists of new books for selection from each year with supplementary lists are published, and the travelling library system has been successfully established. All these various functions are secured by a department at the state capital and the careful study of the library interests of the state.

Miss M. E. Hazeltine, of Jamestown, N. Y., read a paper on maintaining the public library by endowment, in which she claimed that all corporations and institutions that in any way exist for the public, seek endowment *from* the

people, *for* the people, such as schools, colleges, churches, hospitals, art galleries, etc. Then why should not libraries be endowed? Library endowments are of three classes—partial, entire, and conditional.

There are many libraries, some even supported by taxpayers, which have had funds given them the interest of which goes to buy books of a certain class or to maintain a certain department. Others have a partial endowment, but depend for their chief support on fees; but these are apt to lag for want of public support. They are, however, a start in the right direction, and may eventually become the basis of free public libraries.

In the class of wholly endowed libraries we have, first, the large reference libraries in our cities and the college library. The large free reference library, unless a state or government library, is impossible without entire endowment, as it is not right to take the money of poor men to furnish expensive reference-books for professional men. But we are to discuss this principle in its application to free public libraries in small cities or towns. First, the condition of lethargy must be overcome; it is difficult to get people to tax themselves for libraries; they think they need many other things more. Secondly, They think a library cannot be afforded, and the community drifts along ignorant of its need or powerless to help itself. There are many places blessed with endowed free libraries which otherwise would have had none. The statement that endowed libraries are not appreciated because they cost the people nothing is not well founded. It takes time to educate a community to use a library, it is true, but much more time to educate people to tax themselves to found and support a library than to use one already established by endowment. They will soon learn to appreciate it. It is talked of, shown to visitors, is the pride of the town, and, best of all, comes to be freely used. The circulation of our Prendergast Library increased in four years from 30,000 to 50,000, and the use of the reading and reference rooms from 2000 to 19,000. 2000 of the latter were earnest students, and the per cent. of fiction in circulation fell off 3½ per cent. Literary clubs have been organized, and professional men, teachers, and pupils are regular visitors. Many letters have been received showing that endowed libraries are appreciated.

To three-fifths of the people it makes no difference whether the library be endowed or tax-supported.

Endowed libraries are free from the influence of politics; their trustees chosen for their intelligence and ability, not at dictation of a party boss, and their income fixed, and not dependent on the will of selfish politicians. Therefore their work goes steadily on.

The Carnegie libraries are admirable examples of the conditionally supported. Mr. Carnegie gives for the foundation on the pledge of the people to maintain. He helps the people to help themselves. The ideal plan, where the public spirit of a single citizen meets the public spirit of all the citizens; the munificence of one

making possible what the munificence, often the self-sacrifice of all, maintains.

The whole matter resolves itself into an axiom for every community. Get a library, by endowment, by taxation, or by both. Its success depends not so much on its means of maintenance as on its management, its selection of books, and its use especially by the young.

Mr. J. M. Brandegee, of Utica, believed it impossible to have a fixed rule for the whole state. The ideal condition is a generously endowed library with the larger proportion of its funds devoted to administration, and a good board of trustees. State aid implies state supervision, and to commit the custody of a library to political action is a dangerous experiment. The ideal library does not flourish under municipal control; there may be supervision and representation on the managing board, and ample support without full control. But where the alternative is between rate support and common council as trustees and no library, take the library and what support it can get. The politicians do not dare oppose so popular an institution.

Library funds should be separate from school funds, and disbursed by others than those who have control of the schools, to whom the schools are of the highest importance, and by whom library interests would be neglected. The library is not wholly educational since fiction constitutes the largest proportion of its circulation; therefore it should not be administered by the school authorities.

Best library is one largely endowed, supported by taxation. Where endowment cannot be had there should be recourse to taxation.

Mr. W. R. Eastman referred to the support of libraries by subscription as soon becoming wearisome to the people.

In response to a question as to why the state should not do as much for the libraries as for the schools, Mr. Dewey said that under the subsidy clause money may be given to an endowed library at the rate of 10 cents per volume of circulation.

Mrs. Nellie De G. Doubleday, of Bay Ridge, made a full and very interesting statement on "How to start a library movement." When there is belief in a library in any community sufficient to warrant the starting a library without waiting for endowment, the way to start is to start. Bay Ridge, a small narrow village on the edge of Brooklyn, on account of low taxes became overridden with saloons. A reading-room was started, many books and periodicals were contributed; 100 new books bought from funds raised by a garden party. Telegraph station was established, with operator as librarian. Bulletin-board was put up, on which people could vote for new books desired. A telephone was put in. There was no savings bank, and children wasted many pennies; so a provident station was opened, and thus all classes were reached. Now receive \$200 from state; rest of money needed raised by subscriptions, fairs, musicales, etc. 1800 people in village; circulation increased from 75 v. a month to 1200 v. 4500 v. in library.

At Fort Hamilton a young woman started a

library in the fire-engine house, in a very poor population. She kept it going for two years, but it got so noisy the firemen put it out. Young woman was discouraged, and offered the books to Bay Ridge. Bay Ridge people realized the necessity of a library at Fort Hamilton. State gave aid, and library did so well that at a fair \$1000 was raised. This was applied to a new building. Last year a very successful movement was started at Bath Beach.

The question-box was opened, and a few questions read and answered: Ought there to be an age limit in admitting children to reading-room and library? Answer: It is a wise precaution to have children under 12 bring written endorsement of parent or guardian.

Is it wise to limit number of tickets issued to one family? No; but the reserve system is the solution.

What is the best method of accessioning duplicates bought for temporary use? A separate accession-book might be used.

How can duplicates be disposed of? Mercantile and society libraries publish sale catalogs. If good send to University settlement; if not good burn.

There was also a call for a full descriptive catalog of new books.

The question of collation of books as received led up to an amusing and spirited discussion in which Messrs. Wing, Peck, Hill, Dewey, and others took part.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Voted, That we assure the Young Men's Christian Association of New York of our very hearty and grateful appreciation of their kindness in placing these convenient rooms at our disposal for the meetings of to-day. Adjourned.

(Note.—These minutes have been prepared from the excellent notes taken during the sessions by Miss J. A. Rathbone, Sec. N. Y. Lib. Club.)

TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB.

At about 6:30 p.m. the members and guests began to assemble at Clark's, 22 West 23d St., and at 7 o'clock Pres. Stevens, of the club, with Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart and Mrs. Stevens, led the informal procession of guests and members to the number of 125 to the dining-rooms. Here all were soon engaged in conning the eight-page literary menu that had been provided, proving the quality of the eight-course dinner, and criticising the fitness or misfitness of the 117 quotations.

With the *café*, Pres. Stevens arose and extended to our guests our hearty welcome and cordial hospitality. Although but 10 years old, the club, he said, had long passed the age of accountability. It was the parent organization of all similar clubs. The librarian's field of usefulness is beyond limitation; it began in the glory of Nineveh, 667 B.C. Between the brick tablets of Nineveh and the invention of printing in 1422 or 1442 falls the wonderful ms. age. With printed books the dark ages began to

break away and libraries began their remarkable growth. In Europe there are over 100 libraries of 100,000 v. each. The libraries of Europe contain 21,000,000 v.; in those of America there are 50,000,000 v.; in Australasia there are 1,000,000 v. If private libraries are included there is a grand total of 100,000,000 v. in Europe, America, and Australasia. What a wilderness of books through which the librarian is expected to blaze paths for the reading world! a world that numbers 60,000,000 people in England and her colonies, and 70,000,000 more in America. In the 3000 libraries of Great Britain and America there are probably 10,000 employees, most of whom might be classed as librarians.

Only 20 years ago was made the first attempt to organize any portion of this array of talent, when the A. L. A. was founded. During this period library history and sentiment has wonderfully developed.

After the rendering of a fine number by the Rubinsteins' Ladies' Quartet, Pres. Stevens introduced Mr. Rossiter Johnson as the first speaker of the evening.

"I am not so old as your president," said he, "who I think said he was born 667 B.C., nor have I any recollection of the dark ages to which he referred; the age when I hid my books under the fence and ran away from school was the brightest age of my life. I was proud when I began work for a daily paper, prouder still when I was transferred to the semi-weekly and later to the weekly; then I graduated to the monthly and felt I was at the top; then promotion came to the quarterly, but reaching the editorship of an annual had made me perfectly happy. The author ought to love the librarian. Anybody can write a book; any printer can print it; but the librarian alone can circulate it. Invention consists in writing something. We say the poet is born not made, but Ben Jonson wrote of Shakespeare,

"For a good poet's made as well as born:
And such wert thou."

"The most poetical poem in our language is Tennyson's 'Lotus eaters,' but Tennyson never ate a mouthful of lotus; but he had read the 'Odyssey.' Johnson's dictionary is full of the most original quotations, but for them he is indebted to others. Charles Dickens speaks of Charles's wain and the Great Bear as different constellations; Emerson does the same thing. The climax to Lew Wallace's chariot race in 'Ben-Hur' is a mechanical impossibility. Kipling in his 'Ballad of the workshops' speaks of the Tower of Babel as having been built before the flood. It would be well if authors haunted the libraries more than they do. If you are going to write, the way to be original is to know what others write and avoid it. You smile at this; I am pleased that you appreciate the humor of it. I suppose I have made that remark to at least 40 people who were authors and not one of them has smiled."

Prof. Franklin W. Hooper, of Brooklyn, spoke in glowing terms of the prospects for the future when through the organization of great institutes, fine arts, music, religion, society, and

libraries would come within the reach of all in one great building. The time of education never ends with growing humanity. The Brooklyn Institute and the Peabody Institute are the great people's universities; where the best concerts, the best lectures, the best museums of art and science, are open to 1200 or 1500 people per day. We can carry the idea of the book too far; people have yet to learn the true use of books. Our new building will cover six or eight acres; the library-room will be in the form of a Greek cross; that room in its relation to its surroundings is calculated to be the most beautiful that has emanated from the mind of man.

Miss Gertrude J. Nelson then sang Schubert's "Who is Sylvia?"

Mr. R. R. Bowker, being called upon as the first president of the club, addressing Mr. Stevens as his illustrious successor and his fellow-members of the association and club, "and Uitlanders like Mr. Cutter," spoke of the double anniversary — the twentieth of the A. L. A. and the tenth of the club, referred to the fact that no less than 17 states had now state associations, and spoke of the great value of the librarians' influence on the national life, particularly in such emergencies as that fresh in memory, when there was vital need to appeal to the sober second thought of the people.

Mr. Melville Dewey said: "Prof. Hooper says some things that seem visionary; but not so. He has thought for years on these matters, and he sees as some men can see under water; he is a seer. Many of us live in an atmosphere in which we see things which those outside cannot see. The same principle of organization goes down into our smallest towns and villages. The time of promise has come. There are some still who cannot get over the idea of getting and keeping books; they think books are to be preserved and cannot bear to see them worn out. When people realize that there are only 40 librarians to 40,000 liquor saloons we extremists have an even chance."

Mr. Charles A. Cutter, of Mass., made some remarks on library prospects. Frank P. Hill, of Newark, was called on, but he had gone "over the river." C. Alex. Nelson arose with an ominous looking handful of mss., but they proved to be letters of regret from a number of guests who had been invited and were unable to be present. Pres. Seth Low, of Columbia College, where the club was organized, sent "Wishes for a successful gathering." Hon. John Bigelow, out of the city, wrote "What I should say if I were with you will, I presume, be all the better for being kept a year or two longer." Andrew Carnegie was at Cornell, to deliver an address on Founders' Day, the 11th. W. D. Howells had an engagement, and E. C. Stedman was too ill, but "would like to come next year." Edward King, Beverly Chew, S. P. Avery, Alexander Maitland, and Judge Henry E. Howland had previous engagements. Mrs. Ellen Coe Rylance telegraphed a "Happy New Year to the N. Y. Lib. Club." W. T. Peoples, W. A. White, and J. Schwartz, charter members, were unavoidably absent. Henry J.

Carr, W. I. Fletcher, W. E. Foster, H. L. Koopman, and John C. Sickley sent letters of regret with kindest wishes. Dr. Geo. E. Wire, of Chicago, would have been present, but felt it his duty to remain in Illinois and help organize, on the 23d inst., a state association, which should supply the missing link, and complete an unbroken chain of state library associations from Plymouth Rock to Pike's Peak. Some verses sent by the Dr. caused much amusement when read.

After the rendering of another fine selection by the Rubinstein Quartet, Pres. Stevens extended to the singers the hearty thanks of the club for their excellent contributions to the evening's entertainment, and declared the dinner adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting for the election of officers for 1896 was held Monday evening, December 23, resulting in the choice of the following list of officers: President, Dr. Cyrus Adler, of the Smithsonian Institution; Vice-Presidents, Mr. W. P. Cutter, Librarian Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Wm. H. Lowdermilk; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Oliver L. Fassig; Members of the Executive Committee, in addition to the officers just named, Mrs. H. L. McL. Kimball, of the Treasury Department; Miss J. A. Clark, of the Library of the Department of Agriculture; Mr. F. A. Crandall, Superintendent of Public Documents.

OLIVER L. FASSIG, *Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25, 1895.

State Library Associations.

INDIANA ASSOCIATION.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Library Association of Indiana was held in Indianapolis December 27 and 28, 1895. There was a good attendance of librarians from all over the state.

The opening address was made by the president of the association, Miss M. E. Ahern. She said that all movements require organization and similarity of interests, that it was on account of this that there had been an attempt to build up the Library Association.

At the close of Miss Ahern's remarks, Mr. Charles Martindale, president of the Indianapolis School Board, delivered an address of welcome.

The leading paper of the afternoon was read by Dr. G. E. Wire, of the Newberry Library, Chicago. He took for his subject "How a busy librarian reads." He explained how every moment could be utilized, and how necessary it is that a librarian should keep well posted in all classes of literature.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. Sayler, of Huntington, asking the association to take some action with regard to the distribution of duplicate volumes. He said their own library was rich in material which they would be glad to exchange for that which they had not.

Mr. Dunn moved that the libraries belonging

to the association should print lists of their duplicates, which are to be exchanged with the several libraries of the state. The motion was carried.

The president then announced her committees, and the meeting adjourned until 9:30 the next morning.

The second day's session was opened with a paper on the Forbes Library, Northampton, by Miss Helen Tracy Guild, of the E. J. Hamilton Library, Fort Wayne. She described the beautiful new library building, and read an interesting letter from Mr. Cutter with regard to their plan of charging books, which is different in some respects from those with which we are familiar.

Professor Hester, superintendent of the Evansville schools, followed with a paper on the "School side." He made a strong plea for the librarians of the state to stand with the instructors in their endeavor to put better books in the hands of the children.

"Bibliographical aids" was the subject of a paper read by Mr. James H. Asherbranner, of the New Albany Public Library. He cited a number of reference-books which should be found in the office of a well-regulated library, and made clear the way in which one would find them a help.

The last paper was read by Miss Maud Henderson, of the Armour Institute, on "Decorum in the library." After describing the ideal library attendant, she said there were four things absolutely useful — promptness, cheerfulness, tact, and a quiet manner; but the most necessary of these is tact. If this quality is not natural, it must be acquired before one can succeed in library work. The matter of library signs and notices was discussed, the need of putting them in the form of polite requests, instead of curt demands, was set forth.

At the close of the paper the reports of the committees were made, and the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Mr. Rollin Kautz; Vice-President, Mr. James H. Asherbranner; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss M. E. Ahern.

The meeting then adjourned.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION.

THE Library Association of Central California held its regular meeting at the Mechanics' Institute, Nov. 8, 1895.

President Rowell presided, and announced the topic for the evening "Book-publishing and bookselling in California," and made a short address, in which he spoke of the close association of book selling and publishing to libraries. He then introduced Mr. Charles A. Murdock, who said: "I am asked to say something of the 'characteristics and vagaries of California printers and publishers.' Before another tribunal I would be protected in refusing to testify on the ground that I might criminate myself." He then explained that he represented a craft (printing) occupying a borderland between mechanics and art, it being a trade, a business, or a profession, just as you choose to call it. Book-making, he said, was a trade by

itself, really an art, and he described some of the vagaries of the provincial book printer. But a new era is dawning. He mentioned many books published during the past two years that were worthy the imprint of any publishing house in the world and that have been commended by the best critics in America and England. But legitimate publishing is a business, and, like every other form of business, must face the test, "Will it pay?" Authors think the publisher hard and grasping, but this is due generally to the utter lack of business sense often found in authors.

He mentioned several books that had and still have a large sale, and felt that San Francisco might soon take such a stride as Chicago has taken in book-making.

He instanced the success of the publishing of law-books in San Francisco, which are sold over the entire United States.

The expense of authorship, printing, and binding has averaged about \$150,000 per year for the past 10 years. Every portion of the United States is reached, and sales of considerable amount have been made in England, Scotland, and as far east as India. So far-reaching has this enterprise been that it has even controlled the supply, and some writers of law-books have taken up their residence in California. It has been demonstrated that "we can write books in California, we can make books in California, but if they are to pay we must sell them in the markets of the world." Book-publishing will become a successful business in California when enterprise and capital combine with good taste and a love of beauty in the effort to make it so.

Mr. Charles S. Greene, associate editor of the *Overland Monthly*, then read a paper on "California magazines." He showed that from 1853, only five years after the American occupation, up to the present day, there had been one or more literary magazines published in San Francisco during all but 13 of the 43 years, and that their average quality was very good. Tales of the early magazine men, J. M. Hutchings, Anton Roman, Bret Harte, Joaquin Miller, and others, were the staple of the paper. It closed by giving a cheering prospect of the magazine outlook on the coast and a tribute to the literary impulse that has proved a potent factor in California's civilization.

Mr. William Doxey followed with a paper on "The import trade and notes of a random publisher." He spoke of his experience of 40 years in bookselling in England and America, describing the "Chap-books" which were sold by the pedlers throughout rural England, and of the large prices these booklets bring now from collectors. He held that the "American import trade had a great influence on the English market by the drain that is going on to satisfy the large number of libraries growing up here, and prices for standard sets must increase in as great a ratio in the future as they have in the past." In regard to book-publishing in California Mr. Doxey was very hopeful, calling attention to the many successes of the present, although we are only beginning this branch of

book art, and have to combat the strong prejudice of the East against California books.

Mr. A. M. Robertson talked about "Commercial conditions of the book trade in California, past and present," and pictured the situation in rather gloomy colors. He said that at the first glance there did not seem to be any commercial side to the book trade, as no one had acquired the fortune that rewards those engaged in commercial pursuits. He dwelt on the changed condition of the book trade in California. Twenty-five years ago the book trade of California was practically transacted in San Francisco.

The bookseller then carried a full line of school, medical, technical, standard, and new books. There were few weekly papers, fewer magazines, no large daily papers with Sunday editions to supply the public with reading-matter. He argued that the cheap library epidemic and the book discount were a large force in the breaking down of the trade that has resulted in driving so many large firms to the wall and is driving the existing houses toward stationery and blank-book manufacturing. It was difficult to compete with the bazaars, dry-goods stores, and home publishing agencies. He asserted that there was not a man in the United States who had made \$75,000 in the retail book business in the past 25 years.

Mr. Horace H. Moore, who had been a bookseller for 61 years, gave a most interesting paper on "Incidents of the second-hand book trade."

Mr. P. J. Healy prefaced his paper on "Book auctions" by an account of the origin of auctions, and said that the spear stuck in the ground holding aloft a red banner was then, as now, the signal for the disposal of spoils, only instead of the red flag of the Roman centurion we have the anarchistic flag of the sheriff. He affirmed that the patron saint of the auctioneer was St. Francis of Sales. He dwelt at length on the foibles and idiosyncrasies of the auctioneer and the auction "fiends," and gave many amusing anecdotes of both. He gave an account of some famous California book auctions of the past. He claimed that big book auctions were a thing of the past, that the whereabouts of great collections, like great jewels, is known to all collectors, and a valuable collection is now usually sold in block to some public institution. "It has been said that San Francisco is not a book centre, and that it is less so now than it was 20 years ago. There are many valuable collections of books here, but it is safe to say that our collectors buy more books in New York, Leipsic, and London than they do at home."

Mr. J. M. Hutchings, who published the first magazine in California, made a few remarks, and the meeting adjourned.

A. M. JELLISON, Secretary.

A SOCIAL session of the Library Association of Central California was held in San Francisco at the California hotel on the evening of Dec. 13. At 6:30 o'clock all sat down to an elaborate repast, and after two hours and a half, Chairman

Rowell, with some very interesting remarks, introduced Dr. Edward R. Taylor as the first speaker. This gentleman entertained the members with an interesting talk on the fortunes and trials of a book-collector in gathering old and rare editions.

Horace Davis next gave a most entertaining and valuable talk on the early history of the Mercantile Library Association from the time of its beginning in 1853, when it began with rented rooms and a librarian, but no books, telling of its struggles and trials to gain a footing and how it became the splendid collection of books it is to-day.

William D. Armes then read a paper on "A shelf of old books." The paper was replete with interest.

Seated at the table, which was beautifully decorated, were: Dr. E. R. Taylor, Horace Davis, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rowell, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Jellison, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Harbourne, Professor W. D. Armes, Professor Barnes, of Leland Stanford Jr. University, Frederick J. Tegger, Miss Green, from Sacramento State Library, Miss Wade, Miss Sawyer, Mr. Charles Murdock, William Doxey, Mr. Robertson, Andrew Cleary, and others.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION.

THE program for the meeting of the New Jersey Library Association, to be held in Newark on January 26, offers features of unusual interest. The address of welcome will be by Hon. J. A. Lebkuecher, Mayor of Newark; Miss Cornelia A. See, pres., New Brunswick, will read a paper on "New Jersey's oldest library"; "State library commissions: their object and scope," will be discussed by Melvil Dewey, Albany, and S. S. Green, Worcester, Mass., and Frank P. Hill, Newark, will report on "Towns and boroughs in New Jersey without libraries."

Library Clubs.

THE CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB.

THE November meeting of the Chicago Library Club was one of the most successful in the history of the club. It was held at Evanston, Thursday afternoon, Nov. 7. This is one of Chicago's most delightful suburbs; the home of some of the most distinguished people of the West, the seat of the Northwestern University, and a centre of no mean culture and learning. The weather was the only inhospitable element.

The members of the club under the leadership of Dr. Wire, of the Newberry Library, first visited the Evanston Public Library, which is in charge of Miss Mary B. Lindsay, librarian. Miss Lindsay has handled the technical details of her position in an able manner, and is doing all in her power to extend the work of the library. The library is attractive and has been recently improved in its reference and circulating facilities.

With the assiduous attentions of the rain gods the Orrington Lunt Library at the north end of the college campus was reached, where a warm welcome was extended by Miss Lodilla Ambrose, librarian. President Gauss called the club to order in the assembly-room at 3:30 p.m., introducing first President Henry Wade Rogers, of the Northwestern University, who gave a cordial address of welcome.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and presented the names of the following gentlemen, who were unanimously elected to membership: James W. Ellsworth, W. J. Chalmers, Dr. Bayard Holmes, Rev. Wm. G. Clarke, prominent professional and business men of Chicago; also, J. J. McCarthy and S. Dowitt, of the Chicago Public Library.

The president then introduced Mr. J. W. Thompson, president of the Evanston Public Library, who addressed the club on "Library extension." Mr. Thompson spoke from the standpoint of the business man acquainted with library work and thoroughly aroused to the importance of adapting it to the requirements of local environment. His address throughout showed a high appreciation of the broadest possible ideals of the library movement.

Bringing the public library into closer cooperation with the public schools and literary clubs is one of the most important phases of "library extension," but it is in the field of stimulating systematic intellectual effort among those who have not or do not enjoy the privileges of training that library extension has the largest opportunities. "The growing disposition on the part of the masses to read is a favorable indication, and directing this inclination into channels of systematic reading, or if not systematic, to a higher and better class of books, is worthy of the best and most persistent efforts of all who are interested in the work of library extension." Mr. Thompson is heartily in favor of giving liberal access to the shelves and believes that "books will make friends by personal contact, when a stiff and formal introduction by means of a catalog or finding-list would scarcely elicit any kind of recognition." In conclusion Mr. Thompson said:

"Through your influence and as the result largely of your work I hope that at the next session of the Illinois Legislature statutory provisions will be made for the organization of a library commission to encourage the growth and extension of public libraries throughout the State. Experience has shown that library legislation follows the establishment and development of libraries and library influence. I bid you God-speed in your noble work, fully believing that through your efforts the cause of library extension throughout Illinois and the West will receive its greatest uplift and advancement."

Prof. Boltwood, principal of the Evanston High School, then spoke of the "Relation of the public library to the public school." After dwelling on the fact that the public school cannot specialize but must provide the elements of a knowledge common to all mankind, and that the first effort of the teacher is to make

himself superfluous by bringing his pupil to the point where the will and the ability to continue the work of education are fully developed, Prof. Boltwood delivered these sensible remarks which will appeal to every librarian and school-teacher:

"Next to having knowledge is the knowing where knowledge is. A professor of books ought to be in every university and college, and every school-teacher should, in a measure, be competent to do the same work. Every librarian should know more than the mechanical duties of cataloging and registering. Young people need special guidance in the choice of books. My observation makes me believe that many young people are guided principally by an attractive title in the choice of books. Great names in the brotherhood of authors mean very little to them.

"To make the public library co-operate successfully with the school first care should be taken in the selection of books. The bookbuyer of the library should by special consultation with teachers ascertain the special needs of the schools and supplement the deficiencies of their reference libraries. School-teachers should have special privileges in drawing and retaining books for school use.

"From time to time the books which are specially called for in the schools should be put into a room or case by themselves, and the pupils should have access to them under proper regulations.

"I was in the Chicago Public Library one day when Dr. I. Willard, teacher in history at one of our high schools, had, with the co-operation of the librarian, gathered in one room all books of value pertaining to Egypt, and was taking them up with his class, giving comments on them as to their relative value, and showing them where to study to the best advantage certain points which he wished further investigated. This is giving to the pupils of the schools some of the advantages that are secured in the universities of to-day by departmental libraries."

Mrs. E. B. Harbert, president of the Evanston Woman's Club, the next speaker, developed the methods by which the libraries could most successfully co-operate with the social and literary clubs. In the first place the books should be made accessible even though they suffer. The press could do much in the way of bringing new books to the public's attention and of interpreting the best thought of the day, thus bringing up the standard of a community's library requirements to the highest point. If librarians would consult, as has been done in Evanston, with the officers of the clubs and learn what the courses of study for the season were, and would then have the books set apart in some accessible place for their use, the libraries would be of more direct benefit.

Miss Stearns, who came from her post at the Milwaukee Public Library, at the invitation of the club, to present what the libraries are doing and hope to do for schools and clubs,

gave a stirring and enthusiastic address. Among other remarks she said:

"The supreme proposition of the library is the development of the individual. It is always through the children that the best work is done for developing the library. The librarian tries to reach the children before they grow up; she begins by putting a notice in the paper that the library has purchased a large number of picture-books. She tries to encourage their love of art, so that the children will want something better than the soap advertisement. She then leads them into popular legends, takes them into the 'Heart of Oak' books; interests the boy in the Eskimo and in the lives of the heroes of the Polar world and in other books of travel.

"But this is developing the information side only, and not giving him much on the inspiration side; therefore introduce the fairy stories, because they cultivate the imagination; secondly, they inspire love of the beautiful; thirdly, they teach the kinship of all life. Poetry comes after the fairy stories.

"The librarian tries to get hold of the school-teachers. She addresses the teachers' meetings, asks them to come to the library and study their children's books. They select the books, which are then taken in boxes to the school, and guaranty cards are made out in the children's own names, so that they feel a sense of ownership in it. The books are kept for eight weeks; in this way the children will help in making your library grow in the esteem of the community.

"Again gather your little ragamuffins up in one of the rooms of the library, and bring out the beautiful colored books of Audubon on birds, and teach them a love for and admiration for God's animate creation. The Public Museum in Milwaukee has invested \$1000 in specimen birds to circulate about the schools. This has been a direct result of the library's efforts in this direction. One librarian could spend all her time in helping children. The secret of it all is to give the children what they like best and make them interested in it."

Miss Sharp, director of the Armour Institute Library School, then told in an interesting manner of the system, recently inaugurated at the institute, of circulating small libraries of 15 or 20 books among the poor families of the neighborhood; the great use of the books made by the children and the improved tone morally and aesthetically of the families in which the libraries are placed. Ten children in the neighborhood of a home are invited in to form a club and draw books once a week, a student from the Institute Library School being present to assist in selecting and talking the books over.

A vote of thanks was extended by the club to the speakers for the able and instructive addresses.

After adjournment the members of the club visited the new Orrington Lunt Library and the Garrett Biblical Institute Libraries, and enjoyed the courtesy and hospitality of Miss Ambrose and Mr. Bishop, the respective librarians.

EDW. L. BURCHARD, *Sec.*

Reviews.

JAMES, M. R. Descriptive catalogue of the mss. in the library of Eton College. Cambridge, Univ. Press, 1895. 16+125 p. Q. 5 s.

— Descriptive catalogue of the mss. in the library of Jesus College. Cambridge, Univ. Press, 1895. 8+122 p. Q. 5 s.

— Descriptive catalogue of the mss. other than oriental in the library of King's College. Cambridge, Univ. Press, 1895. 10+87 p. Q. 5 s.

These catalogs deserve more than the mere record of their titles. The compiler says his work "has been a labour of love." "The Eton mss. were the first to which I had access. When I was an Eton boy the college authorities generously allowed me to examine them. The kindness was a great one, and I hope it was not misplaced. The least I could have done in return was to put at their disposal such knowledge as they helped me to gain; and this is what I have tried to do. That there are mistakes and omissions in this volume I have not the least doubt; yet I cannot but hope that there is also a good deal of information which will be helpful to scholars both in England and abroad."

That the Eton boy made the most of the privileges granted to him, and that *too con amore*, will be evident to all competent to examine these catalogs understandingly.

We have collections of mss. of greater or less importance and value in private and public libraries in this country, but we have no catalogs of these collections aside from the verbose and grandiloquent auction-sale catalogs, with flaring display type describing the "magnificent" and "unique" specimens, each of more value than any other, and many a description more full of errors of fact than of actual knowledge of the mss. attempted to be described.

Each page of these catalogs by Mr. James shows the intelligent work of the compiler; his painstaking examination of the ms. in hand; his careful descriptions, elaborately minute and exact when fulness of detail was necessary; and his scholarly conciseness when this suffices. The expert cataloger who studies these pages carefully will find abundance of help and guidance in the study of mss. and need no longer regard them with dread and consign them as *bêtes-noirs* to dark closets, or uncataloged, to locked show-cases.

In the King's College list advantage was taken of "partial descriptions and complete collations of the first 18 mss., made by the late Mr. Bradshaw, the brilliance and thoroughness" of whose work is referred to. The same expression may be well applied to the work of Mr. James.

The cheapness of the volumes puts them within the reach of all libraries fortunate enough to possess one or more mss. that ought to be correctly cataloged.

C. A. N.

Library Economy and History.

Albuquerque, New Mex. The P. L. Association established this season the first entertainment and lecture course ever undertaken in the city.

Baltimore, Md. The finance commissioners have decided that the mayor and city council must pay the trustees of the Pratt Library the difference between the amount earned by the sinking fund of the institution and \$50,000, which was the amount stipulated by Mr. Pratt in his agreement with the city when the original gift was made.

Owing to the replacement of securities in the sinking fund, which had matured, the aggregate annual interest, which reached \$50,000 two years ago, is now \$497 below that point. The city has a credit of \$236 with the trustees, however, so that the amount to be made good this year will be \$261. Until 1900 the council will have to order paid an additional sum of between \$500 and \$600 each year.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HANDBOOK. Curtis & Co., Boston, inform librarians that the mailing price of the "Handbook of the New Public Library in Boston" is 16 cents.

Bowling Green, Ky. Dec. 18 Dr. McCormack's fine library of 6000 vols. was destroyed by fire. The records of the State Board of Health were in a safe and are said to be uninjured.

Charleston, S. C. A Catholic Library Association has been organized with over 100 active members.

The objects of the society are the intellectual and physical advancement of its members, and the social enjoyment of their lady friends and themselves. A suitable building will be rented and fitted up with reading-rooms, library, billiard-room, and a social hall. All the prominent newspapers and periodicals will be subscribed to, and the newest books will be added to the library as soon as published. A gymnasium with the latest improvements will be built and provided with bath-rooms with hot, cold, and shower baths.

One feature is that the membership of this association is open to all creeds, and all members are allowed a vote in the management of its affairs.

The yearly dues have been fixed at \$6 for active and \$5 for contributing members.

Chattanooga (Tenn.) L. Assoc. At the December meeting of the directors a resolution was adopted declaring it the sense of the board that two ladies be added to the board of directors at the annual election next month. This is an innovation in library organization in the South, but it is believed by the friends of the library that it will prove a wise decision.

Arrangements were perfected for the lecture by Henry Watterson at the opera house on Abraham Lincoln, on the night of January 7. This lecture is one of a course which the association offers at moderate cost for the intellectual and moral development of the city.

School-children are admitted to the lectures at reduced rates.

Chicago (Ill.) P. L. In November 81 persons took a civil-service examination for positions in the library. 35 passed with percentages ranging from 93.35 down to 70.70, and these have been placed on the eligible list.

At the meeting of the board of trustees Dec. 14, 1895, one of the members, T. C. Diener, was openly charged with blackmailing and other criminal methods in dealing with contractors. A committee was appointed to call upon the mayor and demand his removal, but Diener reached the mayor's office first and handed in his resignation.

Covington (Ky.) P. L. \$10,000 has been subscribed for the establishment of a public library. West Covington has had a free public library for a year.

East St. Louis (Mo.) P. L. The new building of the Public Library at Eighth street and Broadway was opened Dec. 10. The structure cost \$55,000, is fire-proof, and finished with every modern improvement. H. F. Nelson is librarian.

Easton (Pa.) L. Assoc. Mrs. E. Warfield, wife of the president of Lafayette College, has been elected president of the association.

Elizabeth (N. J.) P. L. Assoc. The annual meeting was held December 10. Melville Egerton was re-elected president, Miss J. L. Mahan, secretary, and Howard Richards, treasurer.

Erie, Pa. The Board of Education, in response to a petition signed by 300 citizens asking the board to abandon the building at 11th and French sts., and convert it into a public library building, has selected and appointed, in accordance with the provisions of the library law, a board of library trustees, who are now in position to act.

Flushing, L. I. The Flushing Village Association finds the continuance of the free library under existing conditions impossible, and the suggestion has been made that the library be consolidated with that of the high school. The question will be finally considered at a future meeting.

Glenolden, Pa. The Glenolden Free Library Association is looking for a building site on Chester pike. A charter for the association has been applied for, and will probably be granted. It is proposed to erect a building to cost about \$5000. This association is composed entirely of women, who organized about five years ago. They now have over \$800 in the treasury.

GRASEL'S BIBLIOTHEKSLEHRE. Edith E. Clarke, Washington, D. C., asks whether any one is engaged on a translation of Graesel's "Bibliothekslehre." She was given to understand last summer that she was the authorized person in this country to issue such a translation. A little later she saw a notice that Mr. F. J. Teggart was about to publish one. After a couple of months' delay he finally assured Miss Clarke that he was not in the field. Now it is rumored that some one else is engaged in the

work. Miss Clarke's translation, which has been hanging fire on account of poor health ever since 1893, is now somewhere about half completed, and, if no one else has the work in hand, she proposes to make final arrangements with a publisher.

Hickory (N. C.) L. Association. At the December meeting new officers were elected. It was voted unanimously to offer to every new member who brought in four new members a free subscription for a year.

Hillsboro (Ill.) P. L. In November arrangements were being made to open the new Public Library and Reading-Room at Hillsboro as soon as possible.

Hoboken (N. J.) P. L. Contracts for work on the new library building have been awarded as follows: for the mason work, \$29,288; for the carpenter work, \$15,431; for plumbing and gas-fitting, \$1734. The committee will readvertise for bids for steam-heating, electric lighting, and painting.

Jackson, Miss. A library club has been formed which has already secured 200 v. and money for the purchase of 500 v. more. The library will be governed by a board of directors, and the fees are to be not over \$5 per year.

Jackson, Miss. The coming session of the legislature will elect a state librarian, which office must be filled by a woman, and is the only office in the state to which women are eligible. There are from 15 to 20 candidates for the position.

Kalamazoo, Mich. The Ladies' Library Association held its 44th annual meeting Jan. 3. Balance in the treasury, \$154. Mrs. Emeline A. House has bequeathed \$500. Miss Penfield having resigned as librarian, Miss Laura Wilson was elected to fill the vacancy.

Kansas City (Mo.) P. L. The new rooms of the public library on the second floor of the Court block, Seventh street and Minnesota avenue, have been opened, and visitors will be received from 2 to 5 o'clock every afternoon. Miss E. M. Dickinson, the new librarian, will be at the rooms during those hours to attend to the wants of the public. The list of volumes will soon be increased by a gift of \$100 worth of books from the Federation of Clubs, who are taking an active interest in the success of the library. Tickets of membership, good for one year from date of issuance, may be obtained for the nominal fee of \$1.

Kansas City (Mo.) P. L. reports "an increased demand for literature of the higher sort, and that only 30 per cent. of the books circulated were fiction, which is 10 per cent. lower than the lowest per cent. of fiction issued from 14 representative libraries in the United States." Pres. Yeager, of the Board of Education, suggests that some of the wealthier citizens "hand down their names to posterity" by gifts to the library of books, pictures, and statuary. Work on the new library building is progressing, but it will not be finished until next fall. The stone used comes from Carthage,

Mo., and is of a light color contrasting well with the gray granite foundation.

Knoxville, Tenn. The Lawson McGhee Library is used by both school-children and students of the University of Tennessee, from 300 to 400 coming in every day. Many of the university students come for reference-books, which they may take for two weeks; the reference-books most used are placed in the seminary rooms and are not allowed to be taken out.

Knoxville, Tenn. The Southern Methodist preachers of Knoxville and vicinity started a circulating library in November. It will consist of books on missions, preaching, pastoral work, exegesis, Bible criticism, and the higher criticism. Local preachers and supernumeraries are assessed at the average salary, and every travelling preacher in proportion to his salary, to pay for the expenses of running the library. Superannuates are admitted free.

Leavenworth (Kan.) P. L. Association. The members of six literary clubs have combined, and through delegates have organized a public library association. Suitable rooms have been secured which the association expected to open January 14. In addition to the books for reference and circulation it expects to have a free reading-room which will be supplied with many leading magazines and newspapers. The price of membership has been made so low that it is within the reach of all, and the management intend to make every effort to expend the money contributed to the best advantage, doing all the work of caring for and opening the library themselves. At first the number of books will be limited and the room only opened twice a week. But if the proper encouragement is given, the dawn of the twentieth century will show a handsome public library building that will be a credit to the entire community.

Leavenworth (Kan.) P. L. In November delegates from various literary clubs in Leavenworth started a movement which has for an object the establishment of a free public library in that city.

Lexington (Ky.) P. L. The Board of Education is taking steps looking to the establishment of a public library. Under the new charter the board is allowed one per cent. of the school tax for the support of the library, and half the fines and forfeitures of the police court, not exceeding \$5000 a year. The city is also authorized to make any arrangements it may deem proper with any existing library by which the latter may be merged into the city's library.

Lyons (Mich.) L. Association. The ladies of the association are to hold a bloomer social soon—"E pur si muove!"

Macon (Ga.) P. L. In December the board adopted a resolution by which a membership rate of 10 cents a month was offered to children belonging to educational institutions of the city, but the resolution was not to go into effect until 500 members have been secured. During the past year the membership of the library was doubled and the outstanding debt decreased

materially. This state of affairs is largely due to the efficient management of Mrs. N. L. Barry, the librarian.

Madison (Ill.) P. L. A public library was established in November at Madison.

Manchester (N. H.) P. L. The library is hereafter to be open from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m. every day except Sundays and holidays. It has hitherto been closed from 12 to 1 and 5 to 7, and on Wednesday evening. The new arrangement is for the benefit of the working people, and is in line with the recent progress of the library under Miss Sanborn.

Memphis, Tenn. Cossitt Lib. Dec. 1 there were 8751 v. in the library, 4501 pamphlets, and 44 maps; circulation from Feb. 2-Dec. 1, '95 29,276 v. The use of the reference department, which is open to the public without restriction, was very gratifying. The percentage of fiction circulated was rather large. The library has been open every day in the year. Mell Nunally is librarian; Miss Ida D. Scott, asst. librarian.

Mt. Vernon, N. Y. The common council have adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, This common council is of the opinion that a free public library should be established speedily, and

"WHEREAS, The Board of Education has adopted a resolution authorizing their president to appoint trustees who shall have charge of such a library,

"Therefore, be it resolved, That we approve of such action, and ask the president of the Board of Education to appoint said trustees, and request said board to apply for proper charter from the Regents at once."

Nashville, Tenn. The Masonic Library Association met in annual session Jan. 4, 1896. The year has been a hard one, but when the dues are collected the financial condition will be satisfactory.

New Haven, Conn. At the annual meeting of the New Haven Colony Hist. Soc., Nov. 25, Professor Franklin B. Dexter, of Yale, read a paper upon the "First public library in New Haven." Among other things he said that the library never had a habitation, never a custodian, and no readers so far as it was possible to ascertain. The library was the result of a legacy of 100 pounds left in the will of Governor Theophilus Eaton, who died in 1685. The library as then constituted consisted principally of bulky volumes of works, largely theological, and of but little use to the average reader. As expressed in the will the intention of the founder was to aid some school or college in the formation of a library. However, in 20 years' time a catalog was published describing the books as "the property of the town of New Haven." Where the volumes went to no one knows, as none of them ever found their way into the Yale College library, and none are known to be in existence to day.

New Orleans (La.) P. L. The old Criminal Court building, corner of Camp and Lafayette sts., is to be remodelled on the first and second floors for a free public library and reading-room. The library will be transferred from the City Hall to its new quarters as soon as this work is done.

New York Free Circulating L. The subject of the extension of the work of the Free Circulating Libraries was treated at the meeting of the Public Education Society at the United Charities Building December 14. Professor Woodford, who lectures in the schools of economics and pedagogy at the University, presided. Dr. Edward Eggleston and Mr. J. F. Kernochon, president of the Free Library Association, spoke and strongly recommended the extension of the work to the public schools.

Newark (N. J.) F. P. L. The annual exhibition of books was given November 27, 1895, and consisted of the books on art and architecture. "The Basilica of St. Mark's, Venice," attracted wide attention.

Newburyport (Mass.) P. L. Added 709 v.; total 30,830 v.; circulation 38,830 v.; lost or missing 37 v. 5381 card-holders, including 29 teachers and 76 pupils. Classification and a permanent catalog are the immediate needs of the library, and a room for reference-books should be provided.

Newport, Ky. Under the new charter, allowing 1% of the school levy and half the fines and forfeitures of the police court for public library use, only \$1000 has been accumulated in two years. The friends of a public library are hoping for better prospects under the new council and school board.

Norfolk (Va.) P. L. In November Dr. C. L. Crow, professor of English language and literature at Weatherfield College, Tex., sent to the public library \$25, with which sum the library purchased "Poole's Index to periodical literature." Since March 1, 256 vols. by purchase and 150 by donation have been added. The subscription is \$3 a year; the reading-room is open to the public without charge.

Norristown, Pa. The Norristown Library Company was chartered March 18, 1796; at its annual meeting Jan 7 a committee was appointed to arrange for a centennial celebration, to be held some time in May. William McDermott, the oldest member of the board, was elected secretary. He has held that position since 1859, and has missed but two meetings of the company in 36 years. Miss Irene Hallman was made librarian.

Oconomowoc (Wis.) P. L. Assoc. has voted money to purchase new books and rebind old ones. It now has 1700 v.

Omaha (Neb.) P. L. Fifteen young women took the examinations for the vacant position of assistant librarian in November. The examination was more thorough than any heretofore held. Three were successful in passing, while the two leading ones had not had a high-school education; the best paper received 70 per cent.

Two months ago Librarian Barrows inaugurated a children's department of the public library. That it has proved a great success is shown by the increase in the volumes drawn out by the youthful readers. Before the establishment of this department it was thought to be a heavy Saturday when 300 books were called for. On Saturday, November 9, 411

books were taken out, and on the following Saturday 421. The circulation of children's books for the month of October was 4068. For the first two weeks of November it was over 3600, and the total for the month was expected to be something near 7500. The fact is now that the children draw out nearly 50 per cent. of the books taken from the public library.

This department is under the supervision of Miss Dora Heimrod. The greatest care is taken in the purchases of books for this department, and the very best reading-matter that can be placed in a young reader's hands is provided. The advance notices of all the leading publishers are carefully watched, and orders for all new works thought worthy of a place in the library are placed before the first book leaves the press.

Oxford, Pa. At the annual meeting of the Oxford Library Company in December the board of managers made a report and refused to serve longer. An indebtedness of \$340 was shown by the treasurer's report. A resolution was adopted to wind up the affairs of the company and pay its debts. A committee consisting of Dr. J. F. Rose, W. H. Way, and Milton Walker was appointed to carry out the intent of the resolution. A new company is in process of formation, the prospect of which is good.

Palatka, Fla. The winter picnic given December 10 at the library rooms under the auspices of the Palatka Library Association was quite a success, socially as well as financially. The rooms were prettily decorated with evergreens, moss, and tropical plants, and in every particular represented an ideal picnic-ground. The proceeds netted \$30, to go toward paying the running expenses of the library.

Pen Yan (Pa.) P. L. The lately opened free library is proving a most marked success. There are now in it over 1500 volumes, and its patronage is good, 120 names appearing on the list. 100 new volumes have just been added with the funds appropriated at the annual school meeting, and they are in great demand.

Philadelphia (Pa.) F. L. The *Evening Home Chronicle*, Philadelphia, Pa., November 15, contains an account of the opening of the second branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, with nearly 2000 v. on the shelves. It is known as the Evening Home Branch.

Philadelphia (Pa.) P. L. The committee of the Board of Education have turned over the library branches established by it to the trustees of the Free Library. "Branch No. 1, at the Wagner Institute, was opened for public use on the 15th of October, 1892, with 4941 volumes, and was immediately successful. On the 10th day of April, 1893, Branch No. 2 was opened at the northwest corner of Broad and Federal streets with 4220 volumes. Branch No. 3, on Franklin avenue, below Norris street, in May, 1894, with 7412 volumes. Branch No. 4, at Roxborough, in March, 1894, with 3201 volumes. Branch No. 5, at Fortieth and Ludlow streets, in May, 1895, with 7801 volumes, and Branch

No. 6, in Germantown, in October, 1895, with 3460 volumes.

"The committee found it necessary, in the interest of economy and to secure uniformity, to establish a Central Bureau, where all the books could be catalogued, prepared, rebound, and recased for all the branches. This Central Bureau was opened June 1, 1894, and was placed in charge of George P. Rupp, to whose judgment, earnestness, and zeal the committee testify. Mr. Rupp was subsequently made superintendent of libraries. Since the opening of the Central Bureau 32,627 books have been catalogued there, 4132 rebound, and 2176 recased.

"There are at present at Branch No. 1, 20,411 volumes and 12,890 members. At Branch No. 2, 11,653 volumes and 6460 members. At No. 3, 11,583 volumes and 5665 members. At No. 4, 8810 volumes and 4456 members. At No. 5, 10,495 volumes and 5019 members, and at No. 6, 3646 volumes and 1992 members. 6750 volumes are still waiting at the Central Bureau to be placed. The circulation for November, 1895, was 80,676. The circulation of these six branches may be safely placed in the coming year at 1,000,000.

"The aggregated appropriation by the city has been \$115,000. With this sum the committee purchased 73,848 volumes, established, equipped, and maintained the six branches, and paid the wages of 51 employees."

Piqua, O. At a special meeting of the Board of Education, held Dec. 2, 1895, the following resolution was presented and passed by a unanimous vote:

"Resolved, That the president appoint a committee to present to the city council the need of a public library, and ask that they provide a place in the city building for the Free School Public Library."

Portsmouth, N. H. The carpenters are now at work tearing out the interior of the old academy building, and as a result Portsmouth will soon have a good public library building. Something like \$6000 will be spent in fixing up the edifice.

Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) P. L. Additions 882 v.; total 19,748 v., 763 pamphlets; circulation 40,485 v. Fiction 76.3 per cent.; juvenile 11.3; history 2.8; biography 1.3; science and art 1.5; poetry and drama 1.2; general literature 1; travel 3.5; miscellaneous 3.1. The limit of expenditure imposed by the city charter on the purchase of books is \$700.

Richmond, Va. An appeal was made by a committee of the trustees of the Rosemary Library in October for funds to obtain better accommodations and a permanent site, which will probably mean more subscribers and a larger revenue. The library, through the liberality of a non-resident, has an endowment of \$5000, which the donor will double if \$20,000 be raised in the city of Richmond for the purposes indicated by Jan. 1, 1896.

Rome, N. Y. Jervis Library Assoc. Library opened July 15; total circulation to Dec. 1,

1895, 15,288 v.; average of 129 v. per day; largest number drawn in one day 256. Several study clubs use the library and find the privilege very beneficial to them.

St. Louis (Mo.) F. P. L. 2d rept. covering first full year. Registration 26,064, four times as large as before library was made free. Additions 12,068 v.; total 101,503 v. Circulation, home issue 331,426 v.; library issue 40,628 v.; reading-room issue 16,5359 v.; total 537,413 v. Fiction 42.26 per cent.

22 delivery stations have been established, at each of which books may be obtained twice a week. Expenditures for books in Oct. and Nov. were over \$2000; 1463 v. added; circulation 71,003 v.; registration to Dec. 1, 31,944; visitors in Nov. 47,721.

Five applicants for the position of apprentice in the library recently took the necessary examination. Three sets of questions kept them busy from 10 a.m. till nearly 6 p.m. Miss Marjory Dawson received the highest percentage and the position.

Salem (Mass.) P. L. During the year the home circulation was 168,071, of which 82 per cent. was fiction, 7 per cent. historical, 4 per cent. arts and sciences, 34 per cent. literature, the other 3 per cent. being divided among the other classes. Seventy-six teachers made use of the special cards, on which they took 731 volumes.

The accessions were 2232 volumes, and the withdrawals 464. The number of volumes actually in the library is 31,202. The highest number on the accession-book is 33,112, showing that 1910 volumes have been withdrawn during the six and one-half years since the opening of the library. Most of the withdrawals are the result of actual wear. The cost of books bought to replace other books during the past year is \$191.56.

There is no marked change in the use of the reference and reading rooms. The statistics show a slight increase in the use of the reference-room, also an increased attendance in the reading-room on Sundays and holidays. The library is now receiving regularly 167 periodicals, of which 17 are gifts. The average daily use during the year was 353; the largest daily use, on Feb. 23, was 872; the smallest being on June 17, when it was 44. The average weekly use was 2078; the largest being in the week of March 4, when it was 2739; the smallest in the week of June 17, the number being 1505.

The number of books in the library Nov. 30, 1895, was 31,202, classified as follows: Fiction, 7150; general works, 2433; philosophy, 402; religion, 1323; sociology, 2051; philology, 231; science, 1341; useful arts, 1611; fine arts, 1371; literature, 3516; travels, 2572; biography, 3426; history, 3275.

Sioux City, Ia. Books circulated in December 2739 v.; added 194 v.; number of new readers registered 72.

Shaffer Run, Pa. A very interesting and amusing entertainment was given at Rossman

School, Sugarcreek Township, December 20, conducted by Miss Alice Cain, teacher. The object was to raise funds to start a library in the school. A small admission fee of 10 and 15 cents was charged, and the neat sum of \$15.70 was taken in at the door.

Somersworth, N. H. The Manufacturers' and Village Library was started in 1841, its first librarian being Jesse Lamos; incorporated in 1853 under its queer title. In those days, however, the Great Falls Manufacturing Co. contributed yearly a generous sum to the support of the library, in return for the privileges extended the mill operatives in taking out books. At one time the company provided rooms for the library, but of late years it has given no pecuniary or other assistance whatever.

Circulation 4400 v.; additions 481 v. Jared P. Hubbard was elected librarian at the annual meeting.

Trenton, Mo. The Norris Library at Trenton received in December 300 new books.

Venice (Ill.) P. L. A public library was established in November at Venice, Ill.

Washington, D. C. Mr. C. H. Warden, of the Painters' Assembly, gave a complete set of the reports of the United States Labor Bureau to the Workingman's Library at the Labor Bureau, 600 13th st., N. W. These are the first books contributed to the above-mentioned library, but other donations from different persons are promised and will be received when the bureau has more commodious quarters.

Washington, D. C. A bill is now pending in Congress to give Washington a free public library, a municipal institution, to be maintained at the municipal expense. The withdrawal of the privilege which Washingtonians have until lately enjoyed of getting books on making a deposit at the Library of Congress makes the proposed municipal library almost a necessity to the large reading population of the District. It is probable that the library will be located in a central portion of the city and be open at night, affording a comfortable room for quiet readers. The public library established by the Washington Library Company before the war was located on Eleventh street, south of Pennsylvania avenue, on a portion of the ground now occupied by the uncompleted city post-office building. The books were afterward placed in charge of the Young Men's Christian Association, and a free library was opened in the Christian Association rooms, at Lincoln Hall, on Ninth and D streets, where the Academy of Music now stands. Thence the library was carried to the Franklin School building, where it now serves an excellent purpose as a school library. The legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor has been "instructed to co-operate with the committee appointed by the board of trade to secure from congress legislation favorable to the establishing of a free public library in this city."

There has been much quiet discussion and approval of this matter on the part of leaders in labor organizations.

Westport (Mo.) P. L. By a recent decision of Judge Henry in the Circuit Court, the county court was ordered to turn over to the school board of Westport the sum of \$8000, which has been held by the county since 1871. By a special act of the legislature passed in 1893 this money is to be used for building a public library.

Wisconsin Library Commission. The new Wisconsin Free Library commission was organized Dec. 3, 1895, composed of President Charles Kendall Adams, of the Wisconsin University, State School Superintendent J. O. Emery, R. G. Thwaites, secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Miss L. E. Stearns, of Milwaukee, and Frank A. Hutchins of Baraboo. Mr. Hutchins was elected chairman and Miss Stearns secretary. The object of the commission is to help to organize free public libraries in the state and to help libraries already established. Members of the commission will visit the free libraries at intervals, and a handbook containing much useful information will be issued soon.

FOREIGN.

CARDIFF (Eng.) FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES; a paper by John Ballinger. In *The Library*, v. 7: 300-317, Oct., 1895.

DUBOR, Georges de. The Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris. (Pages 63-79 of *Pall Mall mag.* for Jan., 1896.)

Grimsby, Eng. Out of 279,414 issues at the James Reckitt and Central L. only three books were missed.

London (Eng.) Library. Plans are being made by Mr. Osborne Smith, architect to the Bodleian and British Museum libraries, for an addition to the London Library, St. James's Square. Estimated cost, £17,000.

The *Fortnightly* for November, 1895, has an interesting article on "How to counteract the 'penny dreadful.'"

Gifts and Bequests.

MOSER, MR. JACOB, of Bradford, Eng., has purchased *en bloc* the 12,000-v. library of the late James Hanson, for many years chairman of the Bradford School Board, and has presented it to the Bradford P. L.

Newark-on-Trent, Eng. *Gilstrap P. L.* Sir Wm. Gilstrap, Bart., has given £5000 to the mayor and corporation for investment. The income of £1000 to supplement the stock of books for the children's library; of another £1000 for repairs and an investment fund; and of the balance for developing the general library.

Librarians.

AMBROSE, Miss Lodilla. An excellent portrait of Miss Ambrose appeared in the *Chicago Post* of Jan. 2, with a sketch of her work as librarian of the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Ill., during the past eight years.

BAILEY, Mr. J. Cushing, Jan. 2, 1896, succeeded M. S. S. Ely, resigned, as assistant city librarian at Baltimore, Md.

BALL, Miss. The Board of Education in Grand Rapids, Mich., re-elected Miss Ball city librarian Jan. 4, 1896.

BENEDICT, Miss Laura E. W., who from the beginning has been one of the most faithful and efficient workers on the staff of the Newberry Library, Chicago (Ill.), has resigned, her resignation to take effect on the 15th inst. Miss Benedict's latest work was a complete card catalog of the medical department.

BILLINGS, Dr. J. Shaw, late librarian of the Surgeon-General's Office at Washington, D. C., and editor of the "Index Medicus" has accepted the position of superintendent-in-chief of the New York Free Public Library.

BROCKWAY, C. D., of New York, has been appointed, by the clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, as librarian in the house library at a salary of \$2000; and N. S. Gallagher, of Three Rivers (Mich.), has secured the position of assistant librarian at \$1800 salary.

BROWNRIIGG, Miss, librarian of the Manistee (Mich.) P. L., has been absent on leave visiting the libraries at Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Detroit, and elsewhere.

BURDICK, Miss Esther E., the head cataloger of the Jersey City (N. J.) P. L., has become acting librarian since the resignation of Mr. G. Watson Cole. "The appointment," says the Jersey City *News*, "is a reward for faithful and good services in the library, and the trustees believe in acknowledging these services."

CARVER, L. D., state librarian of Maine, sent out circulars to the 100 or more libraries of the state, asking the name of the library, when it was founded, the number of volumes, and the amount appropriated by the town for its support. These statistics were reported at the Jan. meeting of the Mass. Lib. Club.

COLE, Mr. G. Watson, has handed in his resignation as librarian of the Free Public Library of Jersey City (N. J.), and at his earnest solicitation the trustees have accepted it. Mr. Cole resigns because of ill-health. Mr. Cole's resignation as treasurer of the A. L. A. was not accepted by the council; but Mr. Edwin H. Anderson, of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa., was appointed acting treasurer.

The trustees accepted with regret the resignation, and trustee S. L. Harvey is reported to have said: "It is with great regret that we

found that we had to accept the resignation. The formal acceptance was sent to Mr. Cole this morning. Mr. Cole has been a faithful servant, and words will fail to express our sorrow at his being compelled to resign the position he filled with so many sacrifices to himself."

When asked who would be named as Mr. Cole's successor Mr. Harvey said: "I don't know as there will be a successor. The trustees have now conducted the library for five years, and are well acquainted with the routine work. Miss Esther Burdick, the assistant librarian, who did the work of her position and that of Mr. Cole's during the past two months, has proven that she is qualified in every way to assume the responsibilities of the office, and with her here I see no necessity for the appointment of a successor to Mr. Cole."

His resignation took effect December 1. In accepting the resignation the trustees sent him a letter in which they testify in high terms of his ability.

His physician ordered him to take a trip to and make a long stay at Bermuda, and he sailed Dec. 12.

ELLIS, Miss Gertrude, has been appointed librarian of the Terryville (Ct.) P. L., the library hours being from 6 to 8 p. m. on Wednesdays, and from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p. m. on Saturdays.

FULLER, Miss Edith D., librarian of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., is to give a seven weeks' course of instruction in the Library School at Albany, beginning Jan. 2.

GAYLORD, Miss Marion, has been appointed assistant librarian of the Green Bay (Wis.) P. L.

GILKEY, Miss M. A., formerly classifier at the Boston Athenaeum for two years, and cataloger and classifier at the Mercantile Library of St. Louis, has been appointed chief librarian of the new Free Public Library of Washington, D. C.

GREEN, Miss Jeannette M., of La Grange, Ill., has received the appointment of Vaughn public librarian in Ashland (Wis.) in place of Merton Potter, resigned. Miss Green is a graduate of the Department of Library Science in the Armour Institute, Chicago.

GROVER, Rev. J. L., for 22 years city librarian of Columbus (O.) celebrated his 80th birthday on the 12th of December. He is in good health, and with faculties unimpaired attends to his duties every day.

HAMILTON, Col. Morris R., the state librarian at Trenton, N. J., fell while descending the stairs from the library on the evening of December 25, and broke his left arm. The colonel, who is 76 years of age, after his arm was set, returned to the library and his work.

HEDENBERG, J. W., has been appointed a member of the Chicago (Ill.) P. L. board, vice John M. Smyth, resigned. Mr. Hedenberg has been for 30 years in the real estate business, and this is his first official position.

HUTTON, W., librarian of Stirling's and Glasgow P. L., Glasgow, Scotl., died Oct. 29, 1895, in his 47th year. He had been connected with the Glasgow library for about 30 years; as librarian since 1888.

JOUNKIN, Miss Lulu, librarian of the San Diego (Cal.) P. L., was married Nov. 6, 1895, to Dr. Horace G. Anderson, of Denver, Col.

LANDON, Prof. F. W., of Burlington, Vt., represented the Library Commissioners of Vermont at the recent meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club.

LOOMIS, Mrs. Mary W., was on October 4 appointed assistant librarian of the University of Michigan, succeeding Anderson H. Hopkins, who resigned the position some time formerly to become assistant librarian of the John C. Crerar Library. Mrs. Loomis comes to her new duties after ample preparation. She was formerly a student in the literary department of the university. In 1879 she graduated from Lenox College, Iowa, with the degree of bachelor of arts, receiving her master's degree from the same institution in 1889. She is a graduate of the N. Y. State Library School (class of 1890), New York State Library School, and has had seven years' experience in library work, serving one year as secretary of the Iowa State Library Society.

PHILLIPS, Miss, of the Oneonta (N. Y.) Library, completed the recataloging of the books in December. She was assisted by Misses Anna Woodin, Beulah Carpenter, Ellen Hitchcock, and Lulu Hurlbutt, the work occupying five weeks.

SATTLEY, Elmer C., ex-cashier of the Kansas City Safe Deposit and Savings Bank, has been made assistant librarian in the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo. This position was filled by Ed. T. Noland the defaulting state treasurer, during his term of imprisonment.

STEARNS, Miss L. E., of the Milwaukee P. L., appointed a member of the Wisconsin State Library Commission by the governor, was elected secretary of the commission at its first meeting, Dec. 3, 1895.

WHITNEY, Lewis L., the first librarian of the Woburn (Mass.) P. L., and a member of the first library committee, died December 21, 1895, at the age of 70.

WIRE, Dr. G. E., has resigned his position as superintendent of the medical department of the Newberry Library, Chicago (Ill.). Until further notice his address will be 1574 Judson ave., Evanston, Ill. On the evening of December 27 a reception was tendered Dr. Wire by the Indiana Library Association and the library department of the Bowen-Merrill Co. of Indianapolis at the Commercial Club. Among the guests were Mrs. Stein, of the Lafayette P. L., Miss Elizabeth Swan, of Purdue, and Miss Maude Henderson, of La Fayette.

Cataloging and Classification.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH (Pa.). Catalog of books. 2d edition. Pittsburgh, 1895. O. 376 p.

The 6000 v. represented in this neat and compact dictionary catalog were received, cataloged, and the catalog printed in six months. The printing was done by the Linotype process in about two months and a half. The decimal classification is used and the call numbers are printed. Capitals are used for authors' names and for subject headings. The majority of the titles are in a single line, though in some cases where contents are given they run up to seven lines. The year of publication is given and authors' full names. Future editions will give the additions inserted at place.

When the limitations of the Linotype process as to variety of type used are considered, the appearance and legibility of this catalog call for high praise; and the added advantage of issuing enlarged editions in one continuous alphabet will increase the favor with which this process is regarded. We believe its possibilities are by no means fully developed.

C. A. N.

CLEVELAND (O.) P. L. The open-shelf: being a list of books added to the library, July-September, 1895. No. 3. O.

The full classed list, with its brief annotations, is preceded by a summary of the most noteworthy new books. An account of the first annual meeting of the Ohio Library Literary Association fills about three pages.

CONNECTICUT P. L. COMMITTEE. Report, 1893-94. No. 1, 1894. O. 116 p. pl.

A very interesting and valuable document.

— Circular relating to public libraries. 3d ed. No. 2, 1895. O. 18 p.

— Public schools and public libraries. No. 9, 2d ed. 1894. O. 12 p.

Contains select lists of books for school libraries, and of supplementary reading for schools.

— School libraries. No. 14, 1895. O. 8 p.

Contains the library law and list of books for a library to cost about \$100.00.

— What a free library does for a country town. No. 1, 1894. O. 4 p.

DES MOINES (Ia.) P. L. Bulletin number 1: Additions of June, 1895, opens with a two-page article suggesting books for "Summer reading." A classified list, neatly printed in double columns, with short titles giving year of publication, except for fiction.

EXTENSION BULLETIN (U. S. N. Y.), no. 10, October, 1895, contains a monograph on extension of university teaching in England and America; a study in practical pedagogics, by James E. Russell, Ph.D. "A most convenient

manual for those who wish to understand clearly this modern movement." The appendix gives a two-page bibliography of the subject.

EXTENSION BULLETIN (U. S. N. Y.), no. 11, November, 1895, is devoted wholly to study clubs and is a complete manual for their organization and management. A list and account of the registered study clubs in the state fills 64 pages. A few clubs not registered report some excellent work done. A list of over 50 syllabuses printed by the State University is given, followed by 73 pages of outlines of study pursued in the registered clubs. Statistics of 164 clubs in N. Y. state and of 12 outside the state are given. A good index closes this valuable number.

EXTENSION BULLETIN (U. S. N. Y.), no. 12, December, 1895, is the Report of the Extension Department for 1894, showing that 33 libraries were chartered, admitted, and registered during the year ending Sept. 30, 1894. Reveals an immense amount of excellent work accomplished.

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM (Chicago, Ill.) Annual report of the Director to the Board of Trustees, for the year 1894-95. Chicago, 1895. O. 79 p.

Contains list of accessions from Oct. 1, 1894 to Oct. 1, 1895.

FOSTER'S MONTHLY REFERENCE LISTS (Providence P. L. Bulletin) for November cover John Keats and Old Testament study; for December, Polar exploration (Arctic and Antarctic), five pages, and Torquato Tasso, two pages, each with valuable notes. The 12 Bulletins for the year (volume 1) contain 25 reference lists. An index is issued with the Bulletin for January.

JERSEY CITY (N. J.) F. P. L. Supplement, no. 3, to the Alphabetical finding-list. May 1, 1895. Jersey City, N. J., 1895. [8]+412 p. Q.

This supplement contains books added to the library since Jan. 1, 1893; books in foreign languages, the names of the authors of which have, for convenience, been grouped in alphabetical order under the headings French language, German language, and Italian language; books belonging to series; periodicals, over 6000 v. of which are included in Poole's Index; and local and state publications. The printing occupied from May 3 to July 29.

Mr. Cole has been remarkably successful in the selection of type for his catalog. The black face selected for the catch-words and call numbers is in marked contrast, and yet in closest harmony, with the beautifully clear-cut face of the Roman, which, even in the smallest size used for contents, is marvellously distinct and legible. The experienced eye can readily take in whole titles at a glance. The paper and presswork are excellent. The cataloging is of Mr. Cole's best, and the catalog may well be taken as a model, in all respects, for finding-lists or more pretentious catalog work.

C. A. N.

JERSEY CITY (N. J.) P. L. Venezuela reading: Books and articles in the P. L. which bear on the pending dispute.

A list of about 40 titles, compiled by Miss Burdick and published in the *News* of December 23, 1895.

OTIS LIBRARY BULLETIN (Norwich, Ct.) contains in its December issue a list of books in the library useful in the study of that period of federal legislation commonly designated the "Continental Congress," from 1774 to the time of the adoption of the constitution. The announcement is made of the opening of the library to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 o'clock, commencing December 1, for the use of the reading-room only.

MILWAUKEE (Wis.) P. L. Our books, published by the Milwaukee P. L., vol. 1, no. 2, Oct., 1895, contains "A list of picture-books for very little folk."

PASSAIC (N. J.) F. P. L. Alphabetic catalogue; authors, subjects, and titles; compiled by Theresa Hitchler. November, 1895. Passaic, 1895. O. 8 + 219 p.

Well printed on good paper in clear type; without dates or imprints.

THE PORTLAND (Ore.) P. L. gives in the November issue *Our Library* a list of Recent additions, numbering 368 v. in the two months preceding. 1569 v. were added in 10 months.

ST. LOUIS (Mo.) LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Catalog of the books in the library. St. Louis, Nixon-Jones Pr. Co., 1895. 7 + 762 p. O. h-fshp.

The books in this catalog were presented to the Library of Congress by the Association.

THE SALEM (Mass.) P. L. BULLETIN for December has an excellent Special reading list on Primitive ways of man, well classified, filling three and one-half pages.

THE SPRINGFIELD (Mass.) L. BULLETIN for November has a list of the books by Andrew Lang in the library, with an extract from Brander Matthews's sketch of Lang in the *Century*. It also contains the Mass. Library Club's first list of select fiction, of 14 titles.

WALTHAM (Mass.) P. L. Bulletin, no. 10: Books added in November, 1895.

Contains a Special list for mechanics, and also a list of Fifty books of the greatest authors.

WILMINGTON (Del.) INSTITUTE F. L. Handbook No. 1: List of 100 books for boys and girls in the grammar school grade. [Wilmington, 1895.] 16 p. Tt.

Bibliography.

BALE, Johan. Bibliographiana.—No. 1: The Laboryouse Journey and Serche of John Leylande, for Englandes Antiquites, geven of

hym as a Newe Years Gyfte to Kinge Henry the VIII. in the xxxvii. Yeare of his Reygne. With Declaracyons Enlarged; edited by W. A. Copinger. Manchester (privately printed).

BASCHIN, O., and E. Wagner. *Bibliotheca geographica*. Herausgegeben von der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin. Band 1: Jahrgang 1891 u. 1892. Berlin, W. H. Kühl. 16+506 p. gr. 8°. 10 m.

BAUDOUIN, Marcel. *Le problème bibliographique*. (In *Revue Scientifique* 4e série, t. 4, p. 709.) In relation to the late Brussels conference.

BAUMGARTNER, H. *Zur Litteratur der Erdkunde. Eine Zusammenstellung älterer und neuerer Schriften über Geographie und verwandte Fächer im Anschluss an die "Geschichte der Erdkunde von J. G. Lüddecke*, Berlin, 1841." Leipzig, Simmel & Co. 74 S. gr. 8°. 1 m.

BIBLE. A most important discovery has been made among the contents of a library of a certain M. de Verna, at Lyons. Among the works was found a portion of the Pentateuch of one of the oldest manuscript Bibles of the world. For some time, says the *Petit Journal*, it has been well known that the Bibliothèque de Lyon possessed an incomplete portion of this rare work, but the strange thing is that the manuscript found in the library of M. de Verna is the exact part necessary to complete this bibliographical treasure, with the exception of one chapter from the Book of Judges. At what period this work was divided into halves is unknown.

BIBLIOTHECA JURIDICA. *Systematisches Verzeichniss der neueren und gebräuchlicheren auf dem Gebiete der Rechts- und Staatswissenschaft erschienenen Lehrbücher, Compendien, Gesetzbücher, Commentare etc. Mit Sach- und Autorenregister*. 12. Auflage. Leipzig, Rossbergsche Hofbuchh. IX. 60 S. 8°. 30 m.

BILLINGS, J. S., and others. *Composition of expired air and its effects upon animal life*. Washington, D. C., Smithsonian Institution, '95. 3 + 81 p. F°. (Smithsonian contributions to knowledge, p. 989.) Contains a 2½ p. bibliography.

BONNEY, Charles C. *Bibliography of World's Congress publications*. In the *Dial* (Chicago) Jan. 1, 1896, p. 7-10.

COPINGER, W. A. *Supplement to Hain's repertorium bibliographicum*. London, 1895. 8°. (In preparation.)

DAUZE, Pierre. *Répertoire des ventes publiques cataloguées, de livres, autographes, vignettes, estampes et tableaux*. Index bibli-iconographique. Précédé d'une préface de Paul Eudel. Janvier à Octobre, 1894. Paris, 1895. O. 14 + 1003 + 327 p. 36 fr. Noticed in *The Library* for Nov., 1895 (7:374).

DAVIES, J. F. and J. F. *Civics of Montana*. Butte, Montana. Sold by B. C. Calkins, '96. c. '95. 128 p. D. Contains an 8-p. bibliography of Montana.

EARLY Venetian printing, illustrated. Venice, Ongania, London, J. C. Nimmo, 1895. F. 228 p. 24 s. Severely criticised for its shortcomings in *The Library* for Nov., 1895 (7:375).

LAMBROS, S. P. *Catalogue of the Greek manuscripts of Mount Athos*. vol. 1. Cambridge, 1895. 4°.

MADAN, Falconer. *A summary catalogue of western ms. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, which have not hitherto been catalogued in the quarto series, with references to the oriental and other ms. Vol. 3: Collections received during the 18th century*. Oxford, 1895. O. 9 + 651 p.

MONATSRICHT, *Musikalisch-litterarischer, über neue Musikalien, musikalische Schriften und Abbildungen, für das Jahr 1895*. Als Fortsetzung des Handbuchs der musikalischen Literatur 67. Jahrgang. [12 nos.] Leipzig, Fr. Hofmeister. gr. 8°. 13 m.

NATURAE novitates. *Bibliographie neuer Erscheinungen aller Länder auf dem Gebiete der Naturgeschichte und der exakten Wissenschaften*. Jahrgang 17: 1895. [26 nos.] Berlin, R. Friedländer & Sohn. gr. 8°. 4 m.

RUNDSCHAU, *Bibliographische, auf dem Gebiete der Theologie für Geistliche und das christliche Haus zusammengestellt von R. Hoffmann*. Jahrgang 10: 1895. [12 nos.] Leipzig, Th. Rother. gr. 8°. 1.50 m.

SEYDEL's *Führer durch die technische Literatur*. Abtheilung: *Physik und Elektrotechnik*. Berlin, Polytechnische Buchh. 68 p. 12°. 50 m.

STEVENSON, W. M. [Titles of Pittsburgh, Pa., publications from 1807.] (In the *Pittsburgh Post*, Nov. 20, 1895.)

FULL NAMES.

The following are supplied by Harvard College Library:

Bicknell, Eugene Pintard (*Hypericum boreale* (Britton) and related species);

Fox, Walter Gordon (A manual of field engineering);

Goodnow, Mrs. Josephine Abbott Beecher, joint author (*Great missionaries of the church*); Kellerman, W. Ashbrook (Catalogue of Ohio plants);

Scomp, Henny Anselm (King Alcohol in the realm of King Cotton).





JOHN SHAW BILLINGS, M.D., LL.D.,

Superintendent of the New York Public Library—Astor, Lenox, and Tilden foundations.